

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXII, Issue No. 47

SATURDAY - SUNDAY FEBRUARY 25-26, 2012

www.saipantribune.com 50¢



OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you support the
creation of a Criminal
Offender Registry that
will track convicted
felons in the CNMI?

Let your voice be heard!
Go to
www.saipantribune.com
to cast your vote.

INSIDE

MAHARLIKA



Executive sous chef Ramoncito Apostol remembers the day he first stepped foot on Tinian.

► PAGE 10

WORLD



The opposition stronghold of Homs is being destroyed "inch by inch."

► PAGE 16

LIFE & STYLE



Fans of J.K. Rowling can rejoice: She has a new novel coming, for grownups.

► PAGE 20

UPDATE ON ROMERO KILLING

'Person of interest' identified

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Authorities have already identified a "person of interest" into the killing of bartender Emerita "Emie" Romero, Public Safety Commissioner Ramon C. Mafnas disclosed yesterday in a news briefing.

» Detective says 'person of interest' and Romero had no relationship

Mafnas said that DPS and the Federal Bureau of Investigation are currently investigating the activities and events associated with this "person of interest." When asked if Romero and the "person of interest" had a relationship, police detective Jeffrey Olopai said that nothing

so far in their investigation indicates that there was a relationship between the two.

"Based on our investigation, there's no indication that they knew each other," Olopai said.

He confirmed that the "person of interest" is still on the island.

Chief prosecutor Peter Prestley said that if the "person of interest" will at

See PERSON on Page 4



KEOKI COMES HOME

Army soldiers wrap U.S. Army SSG George Joseph "Keoki" A. Sablan's coffin with an American flag while his family and friends look on after a Mass at Mt. Carmel Cathedral in Chalan Kanoa yesterday. Inset shows an Army officer presenting an American flag to Sablan's parents, former Saipan mayor Jose Camacho Sablan and Janice Sablan, during interment at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery in Marpi.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Work hour cut for food stamp office lifted

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee.eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial lifted the 16-hour work cut for the Nutrition Assistance Program to address a backlog in the eligibility review for some 900 food stamp beneficiaries, acting governor Eloy S. Inos confirmed yesterday.

All other federally funded programs in the CNMI continue to have a 64-hour work biweekly.

See WORK HOUR on Page 4

Rape victim, witnesses fail to tag suspect in lineup

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Witnesses and the woman who was raped at knifepoint in Garapan last month have so far failed to identify the suspect from several photos shown them by investigators, according to Public Safety Commissioner Ramon C. Mafnas yesterday.

"Several lineups were shown to the victim and witnesses with negative results," he said at a news brief-

ing on Capital Hill.

He said DPS continues in its effort to identify the suspect. Multiple canvassing operations have been conducted in several areas in Garapan, including the tourist concessions along the beachfronts, he added.

Mafnas disclosed that investigators have identified one more witness.

"Several video footages were obtained from business establishments to attempt to identify the

suspect and the vehicle used in the crime," he said.

Sgt. James C. Deleon Guerrero assured the victim and the community that DPS is not stopping with their investigation.

Deleon Guerrero disclosed that they do have reasons to believe that the suspect has been hanging out or stays within the hotel district of western Garapan.

Deleon Guerrero appealed to the public to call DPS or the Crime Stoppers Program if they saw a male individual wearing a gray

See RAPE on Page 4

Driver of car that hit boy was male tourist. PAGE 2
\$343K averts payless payday for some at CHC. PAGE 3

Local

Driver of car that hit boy, 11, was a male tourist

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The driver of the car that hit an 11-year-old student along Middle Road in As Mahetog Wednesday afternoon was a male tourist, according to police yesterday.

Police officer Jason Tarkong said a Japanese tourist was driving the Toyota Camry that hit the boy.

Tarkong said the tourist was not arrested as further investigation was conducted.

Tarkong said the Department of Pub-

lic Safety Central dispatched traffic police officers on Wednesday at 2:40pm to Chalan Pale Arnold (Middle Road) in As Mahetog by the entrance to a road leading to the Saipan Zoo for a reported auto-pedestrian crash.

The crash occurred on the southbound inner lane of the highway.

When police officers arrived at the scene, they saw a silver 2007 four-door Toyota Camry that sustained damage to the front right passenger side.

Also at the scene was a Public School System bus parked along the southbound lane.

Tarkong said preliminary investigation showed that an 11-year-old Palauan national was crossing the highway when the Toyota Camry hit him.

The Toyota Camry was traveling south on the inner lane when it hit the boy moments after he got off the bus.

Emergency medical technicians brought the boy to the Commonwealth Health Center for further treatment.

Dr. Trent Scheibe determined that the boy sustained multiple fractures in the right lower leg and was admitted for further observation.



The five members of the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument Advisory Council and two other visiting federal officials prepare for a group photo during the council's initial business meeting at Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan on Thursday, three years after President Bush designated the marine monument on Jan. 6, 2009.

Marine Monument Advisory Council works on management plan at landmark meeting

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Marianas Trench Marine National Monument Advisory Council, during its milestone initial business meeting on Thursday, worked on a draft plan on how to manage the resources at the monument three years after President Bush designated it on Jan. 6, 2009.

Of the five advisory council members who met at Fiesta Resort & Spa, three are from the CNMI, including one who has yet to be formally appointed, one from the U.S. Department of Defense, and one from the U.S. Coast Guard.

U.S. Navy Rear Adm. Paul Bushong, commander of the U.S. Naval Forces Marianas and Commander of Joint Region Marianas, represents the Defense Department.

The U.S. Coast Guard is represented by Lt. Cdr. Morgan Roper, who has been operations officer for the Coast Guard in Guam since July.

The three council members from the CNMI are Dr. John Joyner, the governor's senior policy adviser and a former Coastal Resources Management director; Commonwealth Ports Authority board member and former lawmaker Benigno M. Sablan; and Lands and

Natural Resources Secretary Arnold I. Palacios, who has yet to be officially appointed to the council but was allowed to attend the meeting.

Roper, in an interview, said the initial business meeting's main objective "is to come up with a management plan, and confirm with each other our roles as council members and to ensure that the plan itself is in alignment with the proclamation."

"Coast Guard is part of the council because we would be doing monitoring and enforcement of any incursions into the monument itself. Having a representative from Guam and being closer, if we were to try and interdict any incursions, it would be an asset that we would come from Guam," Roper told *Saipan Tribune*.

The marine monument spans over 480 miles and incorporates about 95,216 square miles within three units in the Mariana Archipelago and contains some of the nation's most unique and pristine marine environments.

The vast majority of the monument is located in the waters surrounding the CNMI, including its three northernmost islands of Uracas, Maug, and Asuncion.

Joyner and Palacios also said the goal of the initial council meeting was

to come up with a management plan.

It was also expected that the meeting would cover the issue of where federal funds to manage the monument would come from, how much, and how soon they will come in.

"I feel great about having an initial meeting because this is the culmination of a lot of preparations...with the idea of actually developing a management plan for the marine monument. It also provides opportunity for each of the entities to share what they see as goals of this huge monument," he said.

Joyner said it's pretty much understood that a monument visitors' center will be located in the CNMI, although there's no telling yet on which island.

Also at the council meeting on Thursday were National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Lisa Croft and Heidi Hirsh, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Susan White, among other visiting federal officials.

The advisory council's initial business meeting on Thursday was followed by the first of a series of scoping meetings Friday night at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, designed to facilitate submission of public comments for the monument's draft management plan.

Fund approves 19-percent cut in new fiscal year budget

» **Money managers' fee down to less than \$1M**
» **Accounting manager post eliminated**

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund board approved yesterday the submission of the agency's proposed \$83 million budget for fiscal year 2013, some 19 percent lower than the current's fiscal year's budget of \$88 million.

Fund administrator Richard Villagomez said yesterday that the large drop is due to the reduction in the money managers' fee, which will be less than a million dollars. In fiscal year 2011, the money managers' fee amounted to \$3 million; this year, it is down to about \$2 million.

Villagomez said the cut in the managers' fee came about after the Fund's transition to a more conservative strategy for its investment portfolio. The new asset allocation strategy, called Glidepath 2013, requires fewer money managers to handle specific investments.

The Fund's money managers numbered more than 10 prior to the passage of the controversial Beneficiaries Derivative Act last year. The Act's enactment prompted many to resign due to fears of litigation. That law has since been repealed.

Villagomez pointed out, however, that the less than \$1 million budget for money managers does not include professional fees for actuarial and in-

CUC heightens campaign vs unregistered private streetlights

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is intensifying its efforts to get rid of unregistered non-government and private streetlights to resolve the non-technical line losses.

On Thursday, the utilities company said that auditing of public and private streetlights and removing all non-government and unregistered streetlights will continue until the concern is addressed. In addition, it said that line crews will also continue to perform necessary aesthetic adjustments of all streetlights to ensure that they are installed on every other pole. This project began in June last year.

Department of Public Works Secretary Martin Sablan defined government streetlights as those installed on the main roads or dedicated public right of ways that are registered with the DPW. Private streetlights are those that do not meet this description.

According to CUC, all unregistered private streetlights that do not meet the criteria described by DPW will be removed from the electrical grid and power poles and placed at the base of the power pole from which they were detached. CUC is advising all private streetlight owners to visit their Dan-

vestment consultants.

Personnel

The pension agency currently has 32 personnel. The same number is reflected in budget proposal for fiscal year 2013.

The number of employees may go down to 30 once the board approves the recommendation of the management team to eliminate two legal counsel positions. Villagomez earlier requested the hiring of more lawyers as a result of more lawsuits anticipated in the wake of the passage of the Beneficiaries Derivative Act.

The board also approved yesterday the reinstatement of the comptroller position and the elimination of the accounting manager position, citing duplication of duties. The board previously eliminated the comptroller position as recommended by a desk audit conducted on the agency in previous years.

Breakdown

Of the proposed \$83 million budget for next fiscal year, Villagomez said that 95 percent will be used for pension payments for members and beneficiaries; the rest will go to operation and all others.

The Fund sources its operational budget from the revenue it collects from contributions. Any shortfall in the budget is covered by drawdowns from the Fund's investments.

Based on the fiscal condition and viability analysis of the Fund last month, the agency only had \$30.4 million in total revenue in fiscal year 2011 while incurring \$80.7 million in expenditures. The \$50.2 million shortfall was withdrawn from its investment funds. Drawdowns in fiscal year 2011 amounted to \$53 million.

dan office and register their existing streetlights. Once a private streetlight is registered, the customer will be charged through the standard monthly billing process.

According to Josephine Togawa of CUC's power division, private streetlights that are removed are returned to their private owners. This effort is also being done on Rota and Tinian.

Non-technical line losses are losses due to metering problems, errors in meter reading, theft, problems in the customer information system, billing issues, and other back-office issues.

Based on a study of private consultant Kema Consulting that CUC commissioned last year, non-technical losses account for 6 to 7 percent of CUC's unaccounted energy loss. This percentage is considered "high" because the industry standard rarely exceeds 1 percent.

Due to these findings, CUC created an ad-hoc task force that will identify all back-office activities, including meter reading policies and procedures, customer information system integrity, billing procedures, and revenue recovery and protection procedures. The task force's eventual aim is to reduce non-technical losses to a level no greater than 1 percent. This is projected to result in an annual ratepayer savings of about \$4 million to \$6 million a year.

\$343K remittance averts payless payday for some at CHC

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two separate Department of Finance remittances totaling at least \$343,000 to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. helped avert yet another payless payday yesterday for some CHC employees, officials said.

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos said yesterday that Finance remitted funds to CHC on Thursday and Friday morning totaling over \$300,000.

"We think that should take care of the payroll but the [chief executive officer] establishes priority," Inos said in an

interview at the burial for U.S. Army SSG George Joseph A. Sablan yesterday at the Veterans Cemetery in Marpi.

Cora Ada, from CHC's Financial Office, confirmed that the corporation did receive a \$243,000 from Finance on Thursday, and another \$100,000 on Friday for a total of \$343,000.

The corporation needs some \$800,000 to meet biweekly payroll, but Inos said the over \$300,000 remittances from Finance will only make up for the payroll shortfall so that everybody will be paid on time.

CHC employees who are non-Bank of Guam holders

may be able to get their payroll today instead of Friday because of additional processing time required.

CHC chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta told reporters Thursday afternoon that non-essential workers won't get paid Friday, but this was averted as a result of Finance's remittances. He said only essential or those in direct patient care such as doctors and nurses will get their paychecks on time.

The corporation is looking at an \$11.58 million line of credit bill that the Senate passed on Thursday and is now on its way to the House, to help stem the financial crisis at CHC.

While Babauta had misgivings about the Senate version of the bill, he said he respects the legislative process.

Babauta said CHC hopes to pay all its employees on time

and pay its vendors over \$1 million in outstanding bills.

This is not the first time this year that a remittance from Finance helped prevent payless paydays for some CHC workers.

Last month, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said Finance transferred some \$261,000 to CHC to help avert a payless payday for doctors at the hospital on Jan. 27.



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos, left, shakes hands with Sen. Henry San Nicolas (Cov-Tinian), right, as Senate Vice President Jude Hofsneider (R-Tinian), center, looks on during a Senate session break on Thursday wherein senators tackled an \$11.58 million loan bill for the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. Inos said yesterday that Department of Finance remittances to CHC on Thursday and Friday averted another payless payday for some CHC employees yesterday.

SHEFA receives 435 applications for new semester

» Majority of scholars pursuing baccalaureate degrees

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance received a total of 435 applications for the spring 2012 semester, of which 36 have so far been found ineligible for financial awards.

SHEFA administrator Henry Hofsneider disclosed that the number of applicants may increase slightly in the coming weeks when the office receives all supporting documents from applicants by Feb. 29.

Of 435 applications, it was disclosed that majority are ongoing recipients while only a few are new applicants.

As of Feb. 15, SHEFA has reviewed 295 of these applications, of which 259 have been found eligible while 36 were denied due to either lack of

supporting documents or failure to meet the scholarship requirements.

SHEFA administers three scholarship programs: grant in aid, field of study, and incentive. Each fiscal year, the Legislature appropriates \$3 million for these programs, with the money coming from poker and license fees collected by the government.

For the 259 applications that were found eligible for awards, Hofsneider said he recommended the approval of \$457,000 in total financial assistance. He targets to complete the review and assessment of all applications after the Feb. 29 deadline for supporting documents.

So far, there are still 149 applications remaining to be reviewed with an estimated slight increase by end of this month. "The office estimates that by the Feb. 29 deadline, it would have reviewed at least 450 applications, inclusive of the 295 [earlier reviewed],"

said Hofsneider. He said awards that may be approved for spring 2012 scholars is estimated at \$850,000.

Hofsneider also revealed that of the total number of eligible applicants this new semester, most are pursuing a baccalaureate degree at 57 percent, or 148 students. Another 108 are taking up associate degrees, which translates to 42 percent of the total number of students eligible for the financial assistance. Only one applicant is pursuing a doctoral degree in pharmacy while two are pursuing master's studies.

For this new semester applicants, freshmen and sophomore students are twice the number of off-island applicants.

Among off-island applicants are 29 freshmen, 26 sophomores, 24 juniors, and 20 seniors; two taking up masters; and one enrolled in advanced studies. For on-island applicants, there are 53 freshmen; 57 sophomores; 13 juniors; and 34 seniors.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Cultural center activities

The Inetnon Åmot yan Kuturan Natibu/Mwiischil Safey me Kkoor Aramasal Faluw is offering free lessons to Chamorros and Carolinians on the making of *amot tatkalam*, *titiyas*, *atuli*, and *iskoba* at the Saipan Chamorro-Carolinian Village Cultural Centers Headquarters (1213 Capitol Hill Road, across from the Workforce Investment Agency and next to the CNMI Board of Parole Office) this Saturday, Feb. 25, 2012. The lessons are from 9:30am to about 12pm. (PR)

Saipan mayor on Marianas Agupa

This Saturday, Feb. 25, 2012, *Marianas Agupa* will feature Saipan Mayor Donald Flores to talk

about his plans to create a stadium like facility on Saipan, thereby promoting Saipan as a venue for professional sport teams' training camp. He will go on the air between 10am and 10:30am. The show itself is from 9am to 11am on Magic 100.3 FM.

The Chamorro radio talk show program is hosted by Glenn H. Manglona and features a world report and program review by former mayor Joseph S. Inos and a report from Rota by Thomas D. Mendiola, a special segment called *Hafa Mohon* with Juanita Mendiola and a report from Tinian by David M. Cing. Simultaneous Internet streaming via www.magic100radio.com will be available. (PR)

2012 DISCONNECTION DATES

IT&E would like to remind its customers that payments not received by close of these business days

January 20 • February 27 • March 20
April 20 • May 23 • June 20 • July 20
August 22 • September 20 • October 24
November 21 • December 20

will result in temporary suspension of all telephone services after 6:00 p.m. on these days. To prevent temporary suspension, customers must pay their bills on or before these dates.

THIS WILL BE THE ONLY NOTIFICATION IT&E CUSTOMERS WILL RECEIVE

You have the right to dispute this notice. You must state your claim in person or in writing no later than **these dates**. You must pay any amount not in dispute to avoid disconnection. Payment denotes acceptance of all charges.

If you have questions regarding billing or service, Please call Customer Service at 682-4ITE (4483) or Visit any IT&E CS Center nearest you.

To avoid disconnection you may pay your IT&E bill at any location below:

SHELL Service Stations - up to 4:00pm
 Chalan Laxalau/Tinian/Rota Office - up to 4:00pm
 TSL Plaza - up to 6:00pm
 Online payment - up to 9:00pm

IT&E
Life in Motion

HIMAWARI

DELI, BAKERY & RESTAURANT
(JAPANESE FOOD, GROCERY & FURNITURE)

Weekend Sale!

February 24 & 25 (Friday & Saturday)

For every \$20.00 worth of purchase from store or restaurant, (cigarette and telephone card are not included)

You will receive \$2.00 worth of Gift Certificate and a Raffle Ticket

For the raffle you will be able to win special Gift Prizes!

Every ticket wins.

Raffle Draw will be on February 26, 2012 (SUN)

HIMAWARI Restaurant
 NEWLY RENOVATED (100 MAXIMUM CAPACITY)
 Lunch and Dinner (Open everyday)

Tel. 233-1530 / 1531 • Fax 233-1532

IMMIGRATION LAW

Bruce L. Mailman Maya B. Kara

Available services include

- U.S. Permanent Residence (Green Card)
- U.S. Naturalization/Citizenship
- Employment Based U.S. Visas (H1B, H2B, L1, EB1, E1, E2, and others)
- Status Clarification

Call for Appointment

(670) 233-0081

Law Offices of Mailman & Kara, LLC
 Corner of Beach Road and Cpl. Derence Jack R., Garapan, Saipan



GIVING HONOR

A woman, foreground, fixes a flower vase, while CNMI and Guam government officials, background, pay their respects to the late U.S. Army SSG George Joseph "Keoki" A. Sablan during interment at the Veterans Cemetery in Marpi yesterday. Standing from left, acting CNMI governor Eloy S. Inos, former resident representative to Washington, D.C. Pete A. Tenorio, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona, Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) and U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the CNMI Alicia Limtiaco.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

WORK HOUR

From Page 1

Inos said that NAP's austerity exemption is "for a limited period" and "just to catch up on the backlog."

"The governor had directed that they go ahead and hire some folks for a period of 60 days so they can start going over the backlog. That's temporary hire for additional staff and allows other staff to work so that we can catch up," Inos said in an interview at the burial for U.S. Army SSG George Joseph A. Sablan yesterday at the Veterans Cemetery in Marpi.

The exemption is for 60 days or two months, starting early this month.

"I understand we're talking about eligibility review for some 900 [food stamp] recipients," the acting gover-

nor added.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP), in a separate interview, said he's "pleased to know that NAP staff whose positions are paid for by federal funds have been exempted from austerity measures."

"These individuals now earn more, are likely better able to pay their bills, and can also spend more money into our economy," he said last night.

Sablan said he "hopes that the governor does not stop here but rather that he be just as fair to all other government employees whose positions are paid for by federal grants and exempt these positions from austerity measures just as he has done for those working for the food stamps office."

For weeks, recipients have been complaining of delays in the release of their food stamps. Among the reasons

for the delays is the austerity Fridays, which eat up the time needed to verify the eligibility of new and existing recipients.

Inos said eligibility review is needed periodically so that NAP will be able to determine whether a food stamp recipient, after a certain period of time, is still eligible to receive food assistance.

"Those recipients need to come in for periodic review on continued eligibility and so one of the reasons why they have not been able to get continued benefits, because they have not gone through an eligibility review process," he said.

A visit to the NAP office in As Lito yesterday confirmed that the office has now been operating during so-called austerity Fridays. An employee said they are open on Fridays from 7:30am to 4:30pm.

A sign on the exterior wall of the of-

fice reads, "Attention to all NAP recipients. The NAP Office will be opened (sic) every Friday. Thank you from the management."

NAP employees refused to comment about the specific tasks they have been doing when they got an exemption from the austerity Fridays and referred inquiries to the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' main office, which was closed on austerity Fridays.

The federally funded NAP administers the food stamp program in the CNMI. It is under DCCA, whose other federally funded divisions or units are still on 64-hour work bi-weekly.

All other federally funded programs in the CNMI are also included in the austerity Fridays.

Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs Tony Babauta earlier requested exemption for the Interior-funded Brown Tree Snake Control Program and Coral Reef Protection Program in the CNMI, in a Jan. 25 letter to Fitial. The administration has yet to decide on Babauta's request.

Inos said there are available federal funds for NAP to remain open on Fridays so it can address the backlog in eligibility reviews.



A sign on the exterior wall of the Nutrition Assistance Program office in As Lito yesterday afternoon confirms that the local office administering the federally funded food stamp is now open during austerity Fridays.

PERSON

From Page 1

tempt to leave the island, "we'll cross the bridge when we get there."

Right now, Prestley said, they have not arrested anyone as they want to make sure that they have a good case.

Mafnas said that CNMI and federal law enforcement authorities are awaiting the results of the forensic analysis and examinations.

"The results of the analysis and examinations are critical in determining the outcome of the investigation and in potentially identifying the suspect[s]," said Mafnas, reading a prepared statement.

Although the autopsy has been com-

pleted, Mafnas said the result will not be released while the investigation is ongoing. This procedure is necessary "to safeguard the integrity and strength of the case," he added.

He also disclosed that video footages have been collected and that investigators are currently reviewing them.

"These footages might yield valuable information to investigators," Mafnas said.

Romero was last seen alive boarding a green or blue tinted sedan around 3am on Feb. 5 near her residence in Garapan. FBI agents found her body two days later in the northernmost building of the former La Fiesta Mall in San Roque. Romero's body was flown on Saturday to the Philippines to be buried.

NMC wants \$8M budget next fiscal year

» Submits separate \$1.5M request for apprenticeship

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College wants a higher budget for fiscal year 2013, submitting an \$8-million proposal to the Legislature for personnel and operations. This is separate from its \$1.5 million request for the implementation of NMC's long-delayed apprenticeship program.

Both amounts were approved by the Board of Regents, which instructed the management to transmit the request to the Executive Branch.

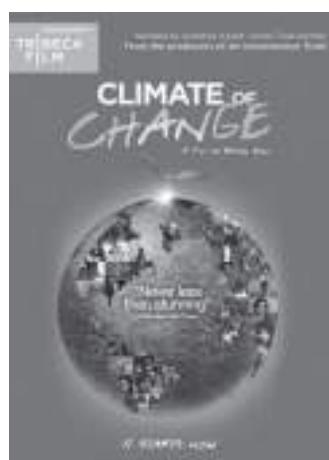
"For more than 30 years,

FIRST FRIDAY FILMS

Climate of Change

First Friday Films will be featuring *Climate of Change*, an incredible, award-winning documentary shot across four continents. Showtime will be on March 2, 2012, 6:30pm at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center.

Directed by Brian Hill and narrated by Oscar winning actress Tilda Swinton, *Climate of Change* tells several stories of



determined everyday global citizens and their efforts to combat human-induced climate change. The film makes a strong case for the role of individuals in saving the planet and a powerful call to act.

First Friday Films is a monthly film series brought to you through a partnership with the National Park Service and the Division of Environmental Quality, with generous support from community groups and organizations such as the NMI Council for Humanities that has sponsored this film.

For planning purposes, the movie runs about 80 minutes long. As always, First Friday Films is free and open to the public.

Find more information about the film at www.firstfridayfilms-saipan.blogspot.com. Subscribe to the blog for regular updates on upcoming events. (DEQ)

NMC has played a central, critical role in the CNMI by helping residents advance academically and professionally. The budget request that we are transmitting to the Governor's Office and the Legislature ensures that the college continues to serve in this very important capacity," said board chair Juan T. Lizama Thursday.

He said the requested amount represents the bare bones minimum to ensure that NMC maintains the high quality of instruction and student services it

provides its students. The budget request, he added, is also vital in meeting the accreditation requirements of the college.

Based on the proposed budget for fiscal year 2013, NMC plans to use the \$8 million funding for the following areas: \$7,269 million for personnel and \$772,692 for "all others."

For next fiscal year, the college proposes to have a total 156 FTEs.

The bulk of the proposed budget will go to personnel wages, amounting to \$5.7 mil-

lion; Retirement Fund contribution, \$955,999; land grant retirement contribution, \$205,507; personnel health insurance, \$228,218; Medicare contribution, \$82,729; and personnel insurance, \$91,287.

For all others, NMC proposes to use \$700,000 for utilities and \$72,692 for all other expenditures.

According to NMC president Sharon Y. Hart, the proposed allocation will improve the per-student allocation of the college.

"It's important to note that the

budget we are requesting represents an average amount that our peer institutions have received in state support in terms of per student allocation," said Hart, adding that the requested amount also ensures that NMC meets maintenance-of-effort requirements for certain federal grants.

It was earlier disclosed that NMC is severely under-funded compared to other community colleges and universities in the U.S. and other peer institutions.

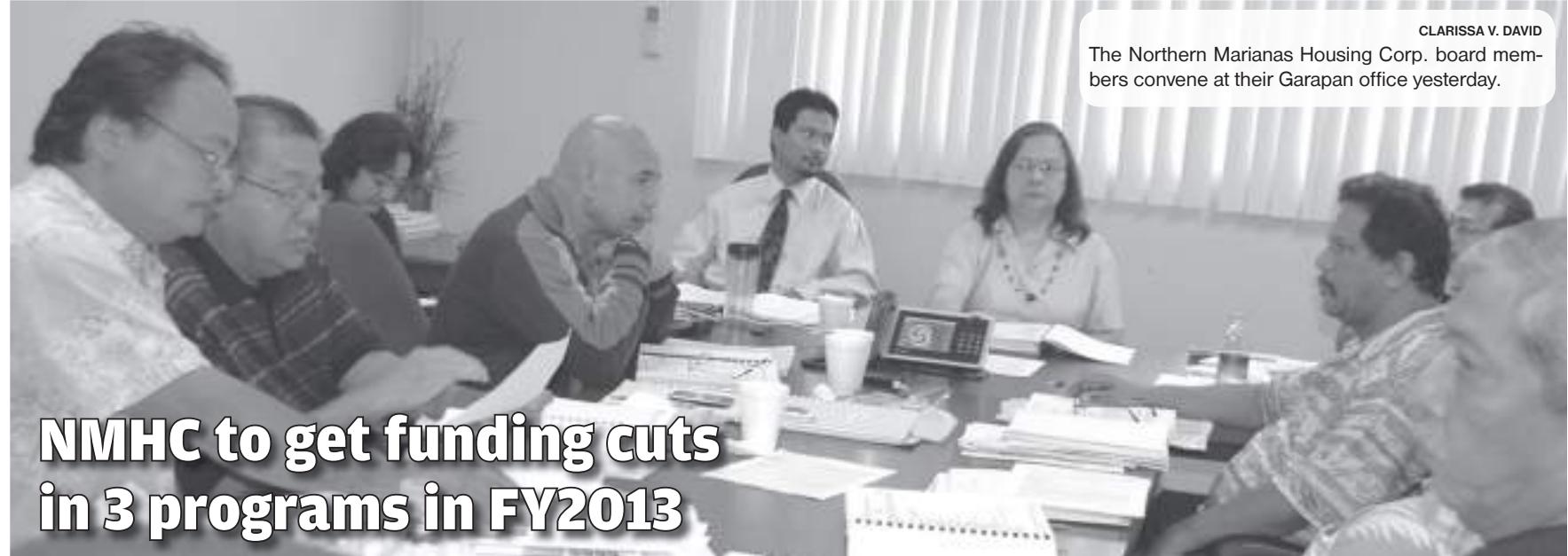
As for the separate \$1.5 mil-

lion budget submission for the college apprenticeship program, \$1 million is being eyed for personnel costs with 22 FTEs while \$494,391 will go to all other expenses, including professional services, \$20,000; OPA fee, \$14,852; personnel training, \$10,000; power, \$16,500; water, \$150,000; office supplies, \$181,000; library books and materials, \$25,300; computer system and equipment, \$56,739; and office equipment, \$20,000.

The college apprenticeship program was created many years ago but was not fully implemented because the Legislature failed to allocate any funds for it.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

The Northern Marianas Housing Corp. board members convene at their Garapan office yesterday.



NMHC to get funding cuts in 3 programs in FY2013

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Fiscal year 2013 will prove to be more challenging in terms of meeting housing needs in the CNMI after the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. was officially notified about the "significant reductions" in the funding they receive from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

NMHC corporate director Joshua Sasamoto reported in Thursday's board meeting that

the agency received last week a copy of the HUD letter addressed to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial notifying him about the funding cuts.

"We knew this was coming and we got the final numbers now," Sasamoto told the board.

HUD provides various grants to the CNMI that are administered by the NMHC. Among these are the Community Development Block Grant, the Home Investment Partnership Act, and the Emergency Shelter Grant Programs.

The Home Investment Partnership Act or HOME program, meanwhile, provides grants

The Community Development Block Grant or CDBG is a flexible program that provides communities with resources to address a wide range of unique community development needs.

Established in 1974, CDBG is one of the longest continuously run programs at HUD and Sasamoto said this funding will go down by 3.7 percent in fiscal year 2013.

The Home Investment Partnership Act or HOME program, meanwhile, provides grants

to finance the construction, purchase, or rehabilitation of affordable housing for low-income residents in states and territories. Sasamoto said this grant will drop next fiscal year by 38 percent.

Sasamoto noted that the NMHC will have "a slight saving grace" as the Emergency Shelter Grant Programs or ESG will go up by 40 percent in 2013.

According to Sasamoto, they have been discussing in the last

two years the decline in the grants they are getting from HUD, which they questioned about the matter.

HUD's "only" reason for the reduction, Sasamoto said, was population decline.

With the release of the 2010 Census results, which further revealed the CNMI's diminishing number of residents, Sasamoto said they have been "guessing" about further funding cuts.

"Unfortunately, our prediction came true," he said.

Air Force training on Farallon de Medinilla

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on the following dates and times:

- Feb. 28, from 9am to 4pm
- March 1, from 9am to 4pm
- March 2, from 8am to 3pm

The public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and ma-

rine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense because

its location provides access frequency that supports established training requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in the Farallon provides sufficient room for the many different attack profiles necessary to replicate training opportunities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. (USN)

Zachares show-cause order withdrawn

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has withdrawn her order directing former Labor and Immigration secretary Mark D. Zachares to explain why he should not be disbarred from practicing law in federal court.

In an order issued Wednesday, Manglona said it has now been confirmed that Zachares had not been admitted to the U.S. District Court for the NMI's bar.

Manglona said in the 1990s, Zachares was an attorney for the Commonwealth and as such, he was eligible to practice, and may have practiced, before the district court while so employed.

Manglona said that, according to the order of attorney discipline issued by Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman, Zachares no longer resides in the CNMI.

"Because Mr. Zachares is not admitted to practice before this court, he is not sub-



Zachares



PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC, Division 9, §9910, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the NMI Retirement Fund Board of Trustees/Workers' Compensation Commission/Group Health & Life Insurance Trust Fund, are hereby giving notice that the Board of Trustees will hold its **Special meeting Monday, February 27, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. at the NMI Retirement Fund Conference Room, Saipan.**

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Adoption of Agenda

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Buck Consultants

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION

VI. MISCELLANEOUS

- A. Other Related Matters
- B. Next Meeting
- C. Adjournment

/s/ SIXTO K.IGISOMAR
CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Opinion

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXII, Issue No. 47

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Faith, politics and women

The following editorial appeared in the *Miami Herald* on Wednesday, Feb. 22:

Tangled at the intersection of American politics and faith are women, contraceptives and the First Amendment. It is not the first time that constitutional guarantees seem to conflict, and it won't be the last if history is any guide.

President Barack Obama tried to calm the fears of Catholic bishops and the charities and universities that answer to them by promising that no religious group or faith-based institution would have to pay for the Pill or other contraceptive services because the rules in the new health law would be tailored to require insurance companies to provide contraceptives for free to any woman who wants them. For insurers, it's a cost-savings in the long run, as it's much more expensive to monitor a pregnancy and deliver a baby.

The problem with Mr. Obama's promise is that it doesn't take into account that many private employers self-insure, meaning they budget a set amount based on their workers' health histories to manage the costs themselves and skip the middle man, insurance companies. The Obama administration has to come up with another way, then, to balance the constitutional right of faith-based groups and those of women who for decades have had access to contraceptives through various insurance companies.

Another potential way around the federal contraceptives mandate would be for employers to pay a \$2,000 fine per worker per year, which is what Jim Towey, president of Ave Maria University in Naples, announced Tuesday that his Catholic university plans to do. It has filed a lawsuit in federal court seeking injunctive relief from the new rules. The irony of paying the federal fine once the law kicks in (it's still the subject of a lawsuit involving Florida and almost two dozen other states) is that it would be a huge savings for the university, as a family plan for an employee through an insurer can run about \$2,000 a month today.

Let's remember too that the Pill is more than a contraceptive—it is used to treat a host of maladies and has other previously unforeseen benefits, from treating acne to reducing the risk of colorectal cancer.

Heading into this political collision no one should forget that women of all faiths work for many faith-based employers at hospitals, universities and charities that do not necessarily share the women's beliefs. Women have individual rights of privacy and religious freedom, too, and that they must be protected. Most Protestants and Jews, who have no objection to contraceptive services—indeed, that battle was fought and settled in the 1960s—should have access, along with all women, Catholics included, because the government cannot favor one religion over another.

It's a delicate balance, one that the Supreme Court should decide based on a half century of legal precedent. The rights and health of women must not be lost in this fight.

©2012 The Miami Herald



The Spy who came into the Cold

First, the Cold.

We received an invitation from an Egyptian residing in Shenyang to travel to Cairo for a week before the opening of the university spring semester, and the prospect of writing a reflection from Tahrir Square was too much to pass up. The colleague flew MiGs for Abdul Nasser, Mirages for Anwar Sadat, and F-16s for Hosni Mubarak, now consulting with one of China's Curtain Wall corporations (a product, then Nest Egg at the Beijing Olympics) so the prospect of joining his company made us forego our planned three more weeks of Aloha sun. Unfortunately, (or, perhaps, fortunately, given the recent street activities in Cairo), his schedule changed.

Spring is now official in China's calendar though *Mugin* (mother) has yet to concur. I remember the days when we furiously fanned as we pined for the cold Siberian winds to reach hot and humid October days on Saipan. The Siberian winds this time came with a vengeance, mixing with the humidity from *Bei Hai* (east sea), dumping four inches of snow overnight on our footsteps.

We already purchased a train ticket to spend the weekend in neighboring Yingkou. So we huffed it on the snow-blanketed street early before the crack of dawn. We trudged on the pristine snow that was really sludge underneath making the effort a slip-slush-sliding away affair!

Our bus to the Underground stalled, a rare occurrence, and just when most of the passengers were poised to give it a shove, the bus engine sparked. At least that woke up the adrenaline into flowing. Shenyang No. 2 Metro Line opened this year but we are still five stops before it reaches the university. Every downtown pencil pusher and shop attendant was up and about, not bothering to queue in their haste to get to their destination, overcrowding the Metro cabs.

It is the first day students were trekking back to school so pandemonium ruled at the train station as well; some of the male of the specie acted like Texas frat boys still inebriated from spring break while the ladies dragged their bulging luggage up the rampless stairs to the train platforms, all looking like they just walked off the pages of *Vogue*.

We were only 130 miles away from our train stop, in the last cabin hastily added with the increase in traffic. But once we located our berth and got going, the white puffs hanging on the leaves of drooping evergreens in the countryside brought us back to memories of winter wonderland. With a thermos cup of steaming coffee in hand, we smiled with the rising sun.

Now, the Spy.

The Spy Who Came in from the Cold (1963) by British David Moore Cornwall writing as John le Carré, is a Cold War spy novel famous for depicting Western espionage methods as morally inconsistent with Western democratic values. Our presence in China is not that morally convoluted nor literally romantic, though speculation on my real intent being here is as wide as Mongolia's open skies.

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jvergarajr2031@aol.com) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.



Being a member of the global staff of the Institute of Cultural Affairs in the Philippines during the Marcos years, I was once engaged in a paid consultancy by a ranking public official on the mistaken notion that I must report to the company. When Marcos failed to cling on to office after the People Power incident, the chagrined official said: "You guys failed to make good on your promise!" Running around with gringos and marmalades, it was understandable that we were identified with the company and the circus.

I give a smart reply when U.S. airport officials ask the standard question of whether I was carrying \$10,000-plus worth of currency or financial instruments and my pat answer is: "I wish." An official at the Detroit airport once physically barred me from moving further until I answered "Yes" or "No"! MI being an oxymoron, I am more vehement in negating any intimations that, perhaps, my movements are of interest to intelligence nets. The notion feeds on my megalomania, but alas, t's worth nothing more!

Not so with some close associates. A Honolulu colleague is convinced that I must be a highly paid double agent. Maybe, triple!

I decried in a previous article the high level of suspicion that seems attendant to our post-9/11 Amerika, particularly toward aliens, foreigners, or those who do not fit the standard profile, not only in Homeland Security posts, but even in neighborhood homes in suburbia. Ironically, China that is currently the object of blame for the maladies and miseries of the land of the free and the home of the brave produces all the security equipment and systems marketed to allay our beleaguered insecurity.

We belabor this Spy-in-the-Cold narrative to call attention to our lives these days, lived not on fact but on the fanciful universes of our imagination. This would not be such a bother were we confined to just the interesting aspect of personal psychology but when it spills over to public policy, foreign affairs relations, government budget, and public expenditure, then the line between fact and fiction is dangerously blurred.

On the other hand, since Tom Clancy seems familiar with the Marianas, might we interest him on an American resident of Saipan, a former Methodist cleric and public school teacher, of Philippine descent, teaching in China in an aerospace university?

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Our splintering culture

Charles Murray is a social scientist who doesn't look like he would traffic in radical ideas, the kind that would upend conventional wisdom. The graduate of Harvard and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology spends most of his days working as a scholar in Washington for the conservative American Enterprise Institute, where thinkers rub elbows with each other. Murray also has a passion for data. The author has spent countless hours tearing apart Census Bureau reports, Gallup polls and General Social Surveys to develop a theory that explains America's divisions differently from the way the tea party and Occupy movements do.

Murray contends in his just-released book, *Coming Apart: The State of White America, 1960-2010*, that the real problem plaguing America is a serious class divide that is eating away at the notion of a common culture. Sure, we have problems with runaway government spending, as the tea partiers point out, and runaway salaries of the rich, as the Occupiers argue. But what's really tearing America up, he writes, is that the nation's new upper class and new working class are pulling in different directions culturally.

We will remain a military and diplomatic superpower, the controversial libertarian asserts. Our economy will remain competitive globally because of our human capital. But if the social trends aren't reversed, he concludes, the "American Project" will end because of a splintered culture.

Writes Murray:

"The American Project...consists of the continuing effort, begun with the founding, to demonstrate that human beings can be left free as individuals and families to live their lives as they see fit, coming together voluntarily to solve their joint problems. The polity that was based upon that idea led to a civic culture that was seen as exceptional by all the world. That culture was so widely shared among Americans that it amounted to a civil religion. To be an American was to be different from other nationalities, in ways that Americans treasured. That culture is unraveling."

Murray brought his counter-reformation idea to Dallas this month, speaking to a National Center for Policy Analysis audience. Before the lunch, we talked about his book—it has sparked an uproar among the intelligentsia—and its peculiar subtitle. Why write a book about just white America?

Because Anglos form the bulk of our population, he said. He didn't use information about minority groups to make his point because he didn't want critics to say the divide is a racial or an ethnic one. The stress being placed upon America is about class, he contends.

Even if you factor in data about Latinos, African-Americans, and Asian-Americans, which he does at the last, those numbers don't change much about the divide between the upper and lower classes. "The trends I describe exist independently of ethnic heritage," he concludes.

Of course, money is one thing that separates the classes. That is what is getting the Occupy movement so angry. Murray uses data to argue that the classes also differ significantly, more troublingly, in their approaches to family, vocation, faith and community.

That hasn't always been the case, he claims. He uses population surveys from the early 1960s to show that although the classes may have long been separated by income, they have not always been so separated culturally, such as in their approach to marriage and divorce.

Murray uses two fictional towns to make his case. "Belmont" represents the upper-middle classes of 1960 and 2010. As in the real Belmont suburb of Boston, that's where you find business executives, professors, scientists, lawyers and other white-collar workers. All adult Belmonters have at least a college degree.

"Fishtown" is the home of the working classes of 1960 and 2010. As in the real Fishtown area of Philadelphia, that's where you find electricians, plumbers, machinists, as well as service workers and lower-level white-collar types. No one in Fishtown has more than a high school degree.

Murray then assigned most white Americans ages 30-49 into one of the two cities based on actual socioeconomic data. He uses the contrast in that data to illustrate his argument that America is coming apart culturally.

For example, in the early 1960s, Belmont and Fishtown residents watched similar TV shows, held the same views about out-of-wedlock births and viewed work similarly. They also had

similar patterns of religious adherence. Residents of one town would easily run into residents from the other.

Not so today, Murray concludes. Here are two quick examples:

In 1960, 94 percent of Belmont residents and 84 percent of Fishtown residents were married. Not much of a gap. By 2010, Belmont's marriage rate had dropped slightly, to 83 percent, but Fishtown's had plummeted to 48 percent. In 50 years, the attitudes toward marriage had widened sharply.

In 1962, nearly the same percentage of children in Belmont and Fishtown—99 and 96 percent, respectively—lived with both birth parents. By 2004, the numbers had blown apart. In Belmont, 84 percent of kids lived with both birth parents. In Fishtown, just 37 percent did. This divergence, Murray suggests, puts the two communities in different family cultures.

As that information highlights, "Coming Apart" is heavy on data. In previous works—such as his controversial 1994 book on intelligence and class structure, "The Bell Curve"—critics charged Murray with manipulating information to fit his arguments.

Not being a social scientist, I can't go toe-to-toe with him on data. Perhaps some other scholars will emerge to paint a different picture. But much of his thesis makes sense intuitively, especially the part about the classes not commingling; whereas the rich once rubbed elbows with everyone else, today they tend to cluster in "super ZIP codes," where everyone is in the 99th percentile of wealth and influence.

Dallas' super ZIPs are a prime example: 75225 (Preston Hollow) and 75205 (the Park Cities) are not really alongside neighborhoods with many working-class homes. They instead are surrounded by more neighborhoods that approach their level of wealth and education.

Murray cites this layering effect as one of the prime changes between 1960 and today. The nation has always had Belmonts, but they once weren't so cordoned off by other Belmonts. It didn't take long to go from Belmont to Fishtown.

I grew up in a Belmont neighborhood in Fort Worth. We had the professionals, managers and executives that Murray describes as characteristic of the upper-middle class. Just a few blocks away was the equivalent of Fishtown. Blue-collar families largely made up those neighborhoods, often working at the General Dynamics plant. So did lower-level white-collar families.

We didn't live miles apart. We lived blocks apart, if that.

The families from those neighborhoods shopped at the same stores, went to the same gas stations and sent their kids to the same schools. (To illustrate my point, Lee Harvey Oswald briefly went to the high school I later attended.)

Schools' role in those shared traditions was critical. Fort Worth had few private schools in the early 1960s, unlike today. We all swam in the same sea together. It was a wonderful democratic experiment.

With minor exceptions, you weren't defined by how much money you had or who your family was in Fort Worth. You played sports together, you shared lockers, you sat cheek-by-jowl in the lunchroom. And you formed friendships based on factors other than money or class.

In fact, some of my most enjoyable memories were of big weekend football games where kids from different backgrounds would gather and play. On other weekends, we would go fishing or hunting together. Yes, a Belmonter family would own the farm or ranch, but you would find blue-collar and white-collar pals running around together.

That's less likely today. Kids in Belmont are much more likely to attend a private school. That's certainly true in my old Fort Worth neighborhood, and it's true in Dallas.

I'm not opposed to private schools. I briefly attended one in elementary school. Each family has to do what's best for their children.

But one of the reasons I'm passionate about improving public schools, including my kids' school, is that they are one of our best hopes for mixing people together. All the fussing over school reform, whether that be implementing better ways to evaluate teachers or strengthening middle schools, is worth it for reasons that go beyond academic outcomes. The reforms are needed to create campuses that attract people from many different points on the socioeconomic spectrum.

In another way, a strong public school system is the best hope to crack the increasing separation of the classes. Murray argues

By WILLIAM MCKENZIE
The Dallas Morning News

William McKenzie is an editorial columnist for The Dallas Morning News. Readers may write to him at the Dallas Morning News, Communications Center, Dallas, Texas 75265; email: wmckenzie@dallasnews.com



persuasively that the new upper class is increasingly separated from the new working class because the former is the product of generations of elite education.

He presents ample data to affirm his point: Well-educated folks marry well-educated folks. They produce children who are usually well-educated, too. Those smart kids marry other smart kids.

Two or three generations of that pattern, which often comes from people attending quality private schools and elite colleges, and you get upper-class residents with little idea of what life is like for the working class.

Conversely, two or three generations of working families not being able to attain a top-line education will lead to less earning power for them and their offspring. They will live in a universe far removed from the elite.

Yet if you have strong public schools, especially in big cities like Dallas, students from working families will have a shot at an education that lands them in a good college or decent job. That's certainly true for students in Dallas' top high schools, such as Townview's Science and Engineering Magnet and its Talented and Gifted Magnet. They are on a par with any high school in the country. However, the same cannot be said for enough of Dallas' other high schools.

Murray doesn't talk about public schools in his book, but in our interview, he concurred with their importance.

He grew up in Iowa, where he, too, went to a public school that brought together kids from different backgrounds. He and his wife raised their children in Burkittsville, Md., a town he describes as more Fishtown than Belmont. Their kids went to public schools.

Murray says he and his wife chose Burkittsville so their children wouldn't grow up in a hothouse of affluence. In modern Washington, D.C., it's hard to find many working-class neighborhoods next to upper-class ones.

It's the same quality I find so appealing about living in Oak Cliff. Yes, my family lives in a Belmont neighborhood, but working-class neighborhoods are only blocks away. What's more, our local elementary school reflects that mixture.

Perhaps that approach won't work for everyone, but people from both sides of the class divide need to find more ways to mix it up. As Murray said in our interview, the swirling together of people from different backgrounds leads to a fuller, richer cultural life.

If you are looking to Murray to provide a way to do that, you will be disappointed. He wants to simply start a national conversation about our cultural divide.

At one level, I understand that. But I don't buy into his provocative argument that upper-middle-class families shouldn't shy away from defending their views on marriage, work, religion and community. He urges them to spark a civic Great Awakening, much like earlier cultural revivals that swept across America in the 1700s, 1800s and 1900s.

If values are true, they are worth defending no matter who holds them. But I have a hard time seeing how a revival led by the upper class is going to work so well. What are they supposed to do, knock on doors and say, "By the way, I've got a lot of money and a lot of good values, and you should start appreciating them?"

His approach almost surely would lead to deep Fishtown resentments and a false sense of superiority in Belmont Land. Rather than bring the classes together, it's more likely to further drive them apart.

A better approach is for communities to build up their cultural capital through creating or strengthening shared institutions. Some have responded to Murray by suggesting we need a national service project. To me, there's no better place to start than with our public schools.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
 Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	 Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	 Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	 Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.	 Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▾76°	▲86° ▾76°	▲86° ▾76°	▲86° ▾76°	▲86° ▾76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota Thundershowers	▲85 ▾77
Palau Thunderstorms	▲87 ▾77
Yap Showers	▲88 ▾77
Chuuk Showers	▲88 ▾79
Pohnpei Showers	▲83 ▾79
Kosrae Showers	▲83 ▾79
Majuro Showers	▲84 ▾79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲70 ▾63
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲44 ▾22
Hong Kong	Showers	▲64 ▾61
Honolulu	Showers	▲80 ▾70
London	Cloudy	▲55 ▾36
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲68 ▾48
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲88 ▾78
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲89 ▾69
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲81 ▾68
New York	Windy	▲46 ▾29
Osaka	Cloudy	▲46 ▾35
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲52 ▾42
Pusan	Cloudy	▲46 ▾32
Rome	Showers	▲66 ▾41
Salem	Rain	▲47 ▾35
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲59 ▾42
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲37 ▾21
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	▲50 ▾35
Washington, DC	Windy	▲50 ▾33

Tides

Sunrise/Sunset

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:37 AM	6:23 PM	Today	8:22 AM	9:03 PM
Sunday	6:37 AM	6:24 PM	Sunday	9:00 AM	9:51 PM
Monday	6:36 AM	6:24 PM	Monday	9:40 AM	10:40 PM
Tuesday	6:35 AM	6:24 PM	Tuesday	10:22 AM	11:30 PM
Wednesday	6:35 AM	6:24 PM	Wednesday	11:06 AM	

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

■ ISLAND SNAPSHOT

Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

■ BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

■ BUSINESS

Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

■ SAMUT SARI

Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

■ TRAVELOGUE

Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

■ CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan

To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 11, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

C05062 2:10am 2:40am 1, 5

SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)

C05064 4:15am 4:50am 1, 5

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

C05064 4:15am 5:45am 1, 5 via ROP

C05070 4:35am 5:25am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7

C05068 8:25am 9:15am Daily

C05074 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7

C05076 3:10pm 4:00pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7

C05078 6:50pm 7:40pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7

C05079 7:00pm 7:50pm 3, 6

C05072 9:55pm 10:45pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7

C05072 10:05pm 10:55pm 3, 6

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287 6:00am 8:40am Daily

DL285 6:35am 9:15am 1, 3, 5, 7

DL297 4:25pm 7:15pm Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1

OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

OZ119 4:00am 11:20am Daily via KIX

OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608 3:35am 7:05am 4, 7

DL581 4:10am 7:30am 1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN

OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

C05070/191 4:35am 9:45am 3, 6 via GUM

DL287/173 6:00am 10:25pm Daily via NRT

C05068/183 8:25am 9:25pm 2, 5 via GUM

C05068/183 8:25am 9:40pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

C05076/183 3:10pm 9:25pm 2, 5 via GUM

C05076/183 3:10pm 9:40pm 1, 4, 7 via GUM

C05076/193 3:10pm 11:00pm 2, 5 via GUM-Palau

OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN

C05072/PR111 9:55pm 7:50am+1 1, 5, 7 via GUM

C05072/PR111 10:05pm 7:50am+1 3, 6 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721 2:10am 12:00pm 1 via ICN

OZ606/721 2:40am 12:00pm 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

C05076/147 3:10pm 10:25pm 1, 5 via GUM

OZ604/723 3:20pm 10:30pm Daily via ICN

OZ604/749 3:20pm 10:50pm Daily via ICN

C0184/5071 11:15pm 7:50am+1 2, 5 via GUM

SCHEDULE OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral

Sunday Mass: 6am Chamorro, 9am English, 11am Filipino and 6pm English Monday-Saturday: 6am Chamorro Wednesday: 6pm Chamorro Parish office hours: Monday-Saturday 8am-12pm, 12-1pm, 1-5pm

Korean Center

Sunday: 10:30am Wednesday: 10am Thursday-Friday: 8pm Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish

Sunday-Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6am and 6pm (PH Novena 5:45pm) Friday: 5:30pm praying of Divine Mercy Chaplet; 6pm devotional mass in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Saturday: 6am and 6pm (anticipated) Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am 6pm Tagalog mass Parish office hours: (Fr. Celso G. Magbanua) Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 8-11:30am/ 3-5:30pm, Wednesday and Friday 3-5pm. Telephone no. 285-0273

Santa Soledad Mission Parish

Monday: 6pm Tuesday: 6pm Wednesday: 6pm Friday: 6pm Saturday: 6pm (Youth mass/ anticipated Sunday mass) Sunday: 7am and 9am (Children's mass) Parish office hours: Wednesday and Friday: 8-10am, Saturday: 4-6pm Telephone no. 256-4568

Saint Jude Parish

Monday-Friday: 6pm Saturday: 7am Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am Parish office hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-11:30am, 3:30-5pm Office is close every Thursday and Saturday Telephone no. 288-0007

San Antonio Parish

Monday-Friday 6pm Saturday: 6pm Sunday: 7am, 9am (Blessing of children) Parish office hours: Tuesday-Saturday: 8-11:30am, 2-4:45pm Close on Sunday and Monday

San Francisco de Borja-Rota

Sunday: 6am Chamorro, 8am English Monday and Tuesday: 6am Chamorro Wednesday: 6pm English Thursday: 6am Chamorro Friday: 6am English Saturday: 6am Chamorro, 6pm Tagalog Sunday: anticipated mass

San Isidro-Rota

Sunday: 5am, 8am, 10am Monday-Friday: 7pm Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish

Monday-Saturday: 6am daily mass Monday-Sunday: 3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet Wednesday: 6pm, mass, exposition of the blessed sacrament Saturday: 6pm, anticipated Sunday mass Sunday: 7:30-9am English, 6pm Tagalog mass Office hours: Monday-Wednesday: 9am-12pm, 2-5pm Thursday: day off Friday-Saturday: 8am-12pm, 2-5pm Telephone no. 234-6991

San Roque Parish

Sunday: 7:30am Chamorro, 9am English Monday: 6pm English Tuesday: 6pm English Wednesday: 6pm English- novena mass to our Lady of San Roque oil Thursday: 6pm English Friday: 6pm English- Devotion to the sacred heart of Jesus (First Fridays) Saturday: 6am English- Our Lady's

Saturday mass for the intentions of the Men and Women in military service, 6pm English- anticipated mass

Parish office hours: daily except Thursday and Sundays: 4:30-6pm Telephone no. 322-2404, Fr. Bong's cell: 285-912, Diocesan Finance office: 234-3000 ext.143

San Vicente Parish

Monday-Friday: 6pm, Saturday: 6pm (First Saturday of every month) Sunday: 6am anticipated mass, 6pm (Neo Catechumenal community mass), 8pm Sunday: 6am, 9am, 6pm Parish office hours: daily 9-11am Telephone no. 235-8208 or 287-0131

Santa Remedios

Sunday: 8am Monday: 6pm (1st Mondays cemetery masses at 5:30pm) Tuesday-Friday: 6pm Saturday: 6pm-anticipated Sunday mass 8-10pm Parish office hours: Monday-Friday: 8:30am-12pm

PROTESTANT

Amen Church

Sunday: 10am, 1pm, 5pm Wednesday: 7pm Friday Prayer: 9pm Bible Study: 4pm (Tue) Music Practice: 5pm (Sat)

Korean class: 3:30pm (Thu) Visitation: 10am (Fri, Sat) Outreach: 8am (First Sat) Tel. No. 285-2121, 256-2221 Email: oseyo@daum.net

Born Again Christian

(Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm Saturday Tagalog Service: 8:10:30pm Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am Sunday School for Children: 10-11am Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan

Sunday School: 9am Sunday Morning Worship: 10am Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm Telephone no. 234-6026/27

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan

Worship Services: Sunday: Chinese and Filipino 9am, English 6pm Bible Study: Wednesday and Saturday 8pm Telephone no. 235-8540

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan

Morning Service, Sunday, 10:00 am Evening Service, Sunday, 6:00 pm Children Sunday School, 10:00am/ 6:00 pm

Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, 7-9 pm Youth Night of Worship, Friday, 6:30 pm As Perdido Road

Chalan Piao, Saipan MP 96950

Tel. No. (670) 235-8590

Email: cornerstone@cfemcares.org

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan

St. Paul's Episcopal Church Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am Place: Garapan, Plumeria Road, Call 285-6081 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan

Sunday Worship Service: 9:11am Sunday school/ Children's church 9am (nursery available during Sunday service) GBI Classes: 4-6pm

Prayer Meeting: 6am Tuesday GCA Kagman, Wednesday Navy Hill, Thursday San Antonio

Home Cell Bible Study: 7pm (Through out the week) Telephone no. 322-5680

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan

Wednesday: 7:45pm (English) Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm

(Tagalog)

Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)

Sunday: 6:45am (English)

Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church

Chalan Kanoa Drive, Chalan Kanoa (east of Town Center and Beach Road, Near Mt. Carmel Cathedral) Worship Service: 9:00am Children's Sunday School: 9:00am Choir Practice: 8:00am Singspiration: 8:30am Prayer, Care & Share: Wednesday 7:00pm Pastor: Millie Carroll 322-6158

Immanuel Methodist Church

(Filipino Congregation) Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal 8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog) 9:15am-Sunday School Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group 8:00pm-Prayer Meeting Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)

Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)

(Korean Congregation)

Sunday worship: 9am, 10:30, 1pm Wednesday evening service: 8pm Daily morning prayer: 5am

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan

Sunday English Service: 7:30-9am, Sunday Tagalog Service: 9:11am and 6-8pm, Wednesday: 7:30-9pm

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan

Sunday School: 9:20am Sunday Adult: 11am Sunday Evening: 7:30pm Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan

Sunday Worship Service: 10am-12noon Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan

English Worship Service: 9:10:30am Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm Children Sunday School: 9:10:30am Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm English Sunday School: 11am-12pm Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: English, 7pm-8pm Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry

Every Sunday Celebrations: 10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog) Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm Youth Impact Friday: 7pm Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church

Sunday Worship Service: 10 am at Seventh Day Adventist church on Quartermaster Rd. Wednesday Service: 7 pm at Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 Contact Nick for more info: 287-1661

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan

Sunday Worship Service: 9:11am Sunday school/ Children's church 9am (nursery available during Sunday service) GBI Classes: 4-6pm

Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, 7pm (Through out the week) Telephone no. 322-5680

Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ (4th Watch)

Sunday worship 8:30am Sunday evening 7:00pm Prayer meeting, every Wednesday 7:30pm San Jose village, after San Jose Hotel Telephone: 789-7566

Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm

Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)

Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm

Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)

Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ

Sunday Bible Class: 9am

Sunday Worship: 10am

Sunday Worship English: 10-11am

Sunday Worship Tagalog: 6-7pm

Thursday Bible Study: 7pm

Saipan Community Church

(Sunday Services)

Palau Service: 7:30am-9am

English Service: 10am-11:30am

Chukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm

Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan

(Saturday Church Services)

Sabbath School Program: 9:10am

Lesson Study: 10:10:40am

Divine Service: 11-12pm

Visitation: 3-4pm

Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm

Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church Koblerville

Sunday services:

Sunday school 9:00am

Morning worship 10:00am

Evening service 6:00pm

Wednesday evening bible study 7:00pm

Chinese services

Sunday morning 10:00am

Sunday evening 7:00pm

Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church.

Telephone No: 285-4661/2

Thy Word Ministries Saipan

Faith Center

Phone 234-0209

New Christian Charismatic Church Service

located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.

Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi

Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi

Service Times

Sunday 10:00am Worship Service

Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes

Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies

Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer

Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice

Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service

Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries

Sunday 5:30am-6:30am

Morning prayer

7am-9am English service

Maharlika

Syed: Alien workers who fear persecution have option

Alien workers who are facing removal cases and fear persecution in their country of origin may have a good chance of getting a favorable ruling from the U.S. Immigration Court on Saipan, according to Rabby Syed yesterday.

Syed, president of United Workers Movement Inc.-NMI, said that he learned from attorney Mun Sun Park that a U.S. Immigration Court judge had canceled deportation orders for a Pakistani national and a Chinese national Friday last week.

Syed said the Pakistani informed the court that he fears persecution if he is deported to his country as he is a Sunni and is married to a Shia.

Pakistan has the second largest Shia Muslim population in the world. Sunni-Shia relations

have been reportedly marked by both cooperation, conflict, and deadly violence.

With respect to the Chinese national, Syed said the respondent has more than one child so he fears that if he goes back to China, he will be persecuted.

Syed said the Immigration Court ruling is a good sign to those who have removal cases but have persecution problems in their countries.

"They should bring to the Immigration Court's attention their problems so it might make some

differences in the ruling," he said.

Syed said he believes that there are many alien workers on island who are out of immigration status and are facing removal cases but fear of being persecuted in their home countries. (Ferdie de la Torre)

TDHC's Apostol revels in the tranquility of island living

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

TINIAN—Executive sous chef Ramoncito Apostol of Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino vividly remembers the day he first stepped foot on the island south of the Northern Marianas capital.

"It was in May 1998, the presidential election in which Erap won," recounted Apostol, referring to then Philippine president-elect Joseph Estrada who won a six-year term in a landslide victory. "I thought this was U.S. but when I came here, I thought I was just in a Philippine province."

But Tinian definitely grew on Apostol, 48, as he now thinks about taking off his apron for good on this beautiful, historic island.

Apostol, who grew up in Caloocan City, officially became the executive sous chef in February last year, in charge of all seven outlets as well as about 87 employees of different ethnic groups on the island's biggest hotel.

Taking on the position, however, wasn't easy for Apostol as he had to work his way up the culinary ladder at Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino. He arrived on island to work as a kitchen helper but he impressed the management so much that they gave him all the job promotions he deserved, the last of which was in 2011.

Apostol revealed that his penchant for cooking began at an early age. "I was inspired by my *lola* [grandmother], who taught me to cook when I was young," he told *Saipan Tribune*. "Of all the dishes she can cook, her chicken pork adobo was definitely the best."

His specialty dishes now include the Italian dish ossobuco and his own version of sweet and sour pork and lemon chicken.

His culinary skills, Apostol said, motivated him to take up a course in hotel and restaurant management at the University of the East in the Philippines. On his third year in college, though, Apostol opted to receive hands-on training at the Hotel Nikko Manila Gardens. Three years later, Apostol packed up his bags to go to Tinian, his first overseas work and hopefully his last as well.

According to Apostol, it was the simplicity and easiness of island living that drew Tinian close to him. "Of course, there's the stress you get at work at times but otherwise, everything is okay."

He describes himself as very "hands on" with his job, caring for all the needs in the kitchen 24/7.



CLARISSA V. DAVID
Executive sous chef Ramoncito Apostol of Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino.

ally the Lunar New Year.

"Just last Chinese New Year, we accommodated over 400 guests. With the charter flights, we have up to 200 diners at our restaurants. That is why planning ahead is really crucial," said Apostol.

When he's not wearing his chef's hat, Apostol is a loving father to three children, who are all with his wife Lucille in Novaliches. His eldest child, Golda, recently married and is now based in Dubai with her British husband and their own child.

Apostol's son, Joshua, is making waves aboard an Asian cruise ship where he works at the casino. Apostol said it's his youngest child, Mikaela, who has expressed an interest in following his footsteps. He is thinking about possibly enrolling her in a formal culinary school.

"Our purpose of working abroad is always our families. Hopefully, when my youngest daughter graduates from college, I can take it easy by then," added Apostol.

OWWA membership shoots up

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Filipino workers have been flocking to the Marianas Business Plaza this month to sign up for membership with the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration.

Welfare officer Julie Fabian yesterday said that as of Feb. 24, they posted a record of 423 new members and they are still expecting to add several more by the end of the month.

Last month, OWWA had a total of 161 Filipino workers who signed up for membership.

Fabian also disclosed that they already conducted OWWA membership presentations to two companies that employ a number of Filipino workers, D'Elegance restaurant in Garapan and the Pacific Marine and Industrial Corp. in Puerto Rico.

Any Filipino worker who is employed overseas can sign up for OWWA membership for

just \$25 per year. Applicants are requested to bring a copy of their CW status or just the USCIS receipt acknowledging their CW application, the worker's passport, and the fee.

An OWWA member is entitled to numerous benefits and services, including insurance and health care benefits, education and training benefits, workers welfare assistance program, repatriation program, and reintegration program.

A member's coverage is good for one entire year, even if the member is on vacation or loses employment within that time period.

Fabian earlier said that OWWA membership is a form of insurance or protection for Filipinos working abroad.

"We are really pleased that more Filipino workers are realizing the importance of having OWWA membership," Fabian told *Saipan Tribune*.

Fabian encouraged Filipi-

nos in the CNMI to become OWWA members and, at the same time, avail of their free training courses every quarter while they are still available.

A total of 54 students attended the first day of the Basic Automotive Troubleshooting class under Rosendo Macea of Joeten Motors last Saturday.

The next day, the Nihongo course handled by Jun Rodriguez saw 15 out of 29 registered students, according to Fabian.

Fabian said Filipinos in the CNMI who have a specific course in mind may request to have it included in their schedule next quarter. "We can grant their requested courses provided that we find an instructor who will be available to teach the class."

Visit the OWWA office at the ground floor of the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe or call 235-6992 or 3411 for more information.

Free health screening on March 4

The Philippine Consulate General will hold its first quarter health screening for Filipino workers next week.

The event will be held from 7am to noon on March 4 at the ground floor of Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe, with registration to begin at 6:30am.

The free health screening program is a collaboration with the Philippine Overseas Labor Office, the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, Filipino Volunteer Medical Team, CNMI Pharmacist Association, Hardt Eye Clinic, and other

Filipino volunteers.

With the expected closure of the Consulate in July or August this year, this health screening will be among the last few that the office will have.

Consul General Medardo Macaraig noted, however, that they have yet to receive an official word from the Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila regarding the actual date of their closure. Still, he assured the Filipino community that they will continue to provide the free health screening and other programs of the Consulate as long

as their office remains open.

Macaraig urged Filipino workers to avail of the medical services that will be available during the health screening: blood pressure, blood sugar, and eye checkups.

Those who will avail of the blood sugar screening should refrain from having any solid or liquid food intake from 12 midnight prior to the screening until after blood samples have been obtained at the event.

For more information, visit the Consulate at the 5th floor of Marianas Business Plaza or call 234-1850 or 51. (Clarissa V. David)

Shirley's Coffee Shop tops *Panlasang Pinoy* competition

Shirley's Coffee Shop took home the top prize in the *Panlasang Pinoy* cooking competition during the Pusong Pinoy 2012 event held last Feb. 17 at the Susupe Civic Center, Susupe on Saipan.

The restaurant won with its lineup of entrees that included Filipino favorites like beef *kadlereta*, pork *adobo*, *pinakbet*, *tinolang manok*, and *ginataang tuna*.

Pusong Pinoy 2012 was organized by the United Filipino Organization and saw several hundred community members attend the whole-day event.

"I want to thank UFO for giving us an opportunity to showcase our *Pinoy* dishes during Pusong Pinoy 2012. I would also like to congratulate our cooks and staff for preparing the winning dishes," said Shirley's Coffee Shop general manager Susan Macario.

Shirley's Coffee Shop was one of six restaurants and food establishments that joined the competition. The champion won \$300, while the runner-up received \$200. Third place got \$100.

Founded in 1983, Shirley's Coffee Shop has been serving the best of Chamorro, Filipino,

and American cuisines in generous servings on Saipan and in Guam.

Shirley's Coffee Shop in Susupe and Garapan also offers daily lunch specials for only \$8.95. The lunch package includes two entrées, two scoops of rice, a serving of appetizer and soup of the day. It is good for two and best if shared with a friend, a co-worker, or a special someone.

For more information on Shirley's Coffee Shop, call the Garapan restaurant at 233-4519 to 20 or the Susupe branch at 235-5379 to 80. (PR)

Palace says time of reckoning has come for Arroyo

By MIKO MORELOS,
NORMAN BORDADORA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Malacañang on Thursday said the "time of reckoning" had come after former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo pleaded "not guilty" to a charge of electoral sabotage—the second Philippine leader in postwar history to be brought to court for criminal prosecution.

Wearing a neck brace and secured by wall-to-wall armed policemen, including sharpshooters, the 64-year-old Pampanga congresswoman entered her plea in the Pasay City Regional Trial Court (RTC) Branch 112, where she has been charged with rigging the 2007 senatorial elections.

"Accountability escapes no one," Edwin Lacierda, President Benigno Aquino III's spokesperson, told reporters at the Palace shortly after Arroyo made the plea.

"This is the very foundation of the rule of law: the scales of justice should tip towards no one. (The Lady Justice's) blindfold must continue to shield the system from being susceptible to the temptations of pandering to those with power and influence," Lacierda said.

Court officials recognized the historic nature of what transpired Thursday inside the cramped courtroom which had been just another city court until a computer raffled to it the electoral sabotage case.

"This is a very historic event," court spokesperson Felda Domingo told the Inquirer. "This shows that no one is above the law. Whether you're a president or not, you have to go through due process to which you are entitled."

One step closer

Lacierda called on the people to closely follow the trial. "It is our goal to give her a day in court under a fair and impartial system of justice. At this time of reckoning, it is incumbent upon all of us to remain vigilant and observe this process as it unfolds," he said.

"We must remain mindful of how in the past there were those who moved heaven and earth to prevent this day from arriving," he added.

Lacierda also said Arroyo's arraignment "brings us one step closer towards attaining closure to the many controversies that have hounded our country dur-

ing the previous administration."

Family beside her

Wearing a cream pantsuit and a new hairdo, Arroyo alighted from a minibus and headed straight to the courtroom, walking through scores of policemen who had placed the compound under heavy security, blanketing almost every corner of the area with their presence.

"Not guilty," Arroyo calmly said as she stood before Judge Jesus Mupas.

Outside the court, some 2,000 Arroyo supporters held a rally, carrying placards that read "We love GMA," "Justice for GMA," and "Di ka namin iwan (We will never leave you.)"

Arroyo's husband, Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, and her two sons, Mikey and Dato, sat by their mother's side in the courtroom.

The former President's lawyers, Benjamin Santos and Ray Monti Santos, waived the reading of the charges.

An injustice'

Mike Arroyo scoffed at the case against her wife, who he said felt "frustrated" at the turn of events.

"There is no case against her," he told reporters. "It's not bad to say 12-0. She feels (this) is an injustice to her."

He was referring to prosecution allegations that his wife directed officials of Maguindanao province in 2007 to ensure a 12-0 victory for the administration candidates in the senatorial elections that year.

Back to hospital

Arroyo's frustration at her being hauled to court was not evident during her brief appearance, as she flashed a smile and waved at photographers and cameramen who had waited for her arrival at the Pasay City Hall.

Arroyo entered her plea at around 8:55 a.m. before security personnel whisked her back to Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City, where she has been under hospital arrest for nearly two months.

She is suffering from a degenerative bone condition and compression of nerves which doctors found after the pain in her neck worsened in June last year.

Twist of fate

Arroyo is the second former Philippine leader to be charged in court for a crime after Joseph



Former Philippine President and now Congresswoman Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, center, is flanked by her husband Jose Miguel Arroyo, right, and son Diosdado "Dato" Arroyo as they arrive at a Pasay City Court for her arraignment on electoral fraud charges in Manila, Thursday Feb. 23, 2012. AP

Court allows Arroyo to visit brother-in-law's wake

By NATHANIEL R. MELICAN
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—A Pasay City court has granted former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's petition to be allowed to visit the wake of her brother-in-law, Negros Occidental Rep. Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo, but she quickly asked the court to reschedule the visit.

Felda Domingo, spokes-

person of the Pasay Regional Trial Court's Branch 112, said Friday morning that Judge Jesus Mupas has already granted Arroyo's initial plea to visit the wake, scheduling it on Feb. 25, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

However, after hearing that the deceased Arroyo's remains would not arrive in Manila as originally scheduled Friday night, the former President's lawyers filed a manifestation

seeking the rescheduling of the visit. "In their manifestation filed Friday morning also, they want it from March 1 to 3, where Arroyo will stay at her house in La Vista in Quezon City," Domingo said.

The Comelec filed an opposing manifestation also on Friday morning, Domingo said, adding the new manifestations will be tackled by Mupas in a hearing set on February 27.

Estrada, who was arrested on plunder charges in April 2001, four months after he was ousted from the presidency.

Convicted in 2007 and sentenced to 40 years in jail, Estrada was detained for more than six years before Arroyo—ironically the President then—pardoned him, citing among other reasons that he had reached 70 years old.

Domingo noted the odd twist of fate for Arroyo, considering that the electoral sabotage charge lodged against her was

a relatively new offense under a law she herself signed establishing the crime.

The law, Republic Act No. 9369, was enacted in January 2007, barely five months before the senatorial elections, when she purportedly committed the crime.

For Beleanda Gaspar, the court interpreter, Thursday was a "highlight" of her career in the judiciary spanning over three decades.

"It is very disheartening that I would meet a former President

under these circumstances," said Gaspar, who is turning 64 next month. "But I could say that this is the highlight of my career."

"This is the first high-profile case of this court," she added. "Before, our cases usually involved robbery and homicide."

Pending resolutions

Mupas set a pretrial for April 19 when prosecutors are expected to submit a list of their witnesses.

The court deferred resolving

Philippines blames bandits for killing 6 villagers

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Gunmen in a lawless southern Philippine region swooped down on a village and killed six residents in an attack that officials said Friday was retaliation for the death of a bandit leader.

Nine other people were wounded, including three young children, when the gunmen strafed houses in coastal Zamboanga del Sur province on Thursday, said Police Director Felicísimo Khu.

The attackers suspected the

villagers provided information that led police earlier this month to a suspected bandit leader, Sammang Andi, Khu said. Andi was killed in a shootout.

"The two brothers allegedly led the attack," he said.

Military spokesman Lt. Col. Randolph Cabangbang said there were 10 gunmen who took part in the attack. He said the victims were related to a government militiaman who had guided police in the February shootout.

two pleadings, including a defense request for Arroyo to be under house arrest and a prosecution plea for her to be brought to a regular jail.

The court also has yet to rule on Arroyo's request to attend the wake of her brother-in-law, former Representative Ignacio Arroyo, who died in London last month.

Sniper units

Security was tight for the arraignment. The City Hall, where the court is located, and the adjacent Hall of Justice crawled with policemen on every floor.

At least two sniper units kept watch on the second floor terrace of the City Hall, while two policemen were seen at the windows on each of the building's stairwell.

Authorities set up a yellow police line across the City Hall driveway to hold media people at the parking lot. Truncheon-wielding personnel formed a human barricade to prevent their line from being breached.

Police also sealed off to traffic a portion of FB Harrison Street in front of City Hall and kept Arroyo supporters away from the building.

Police had initially barred media coverage of the arraignment but later allowed four journalists representing Philippine print and wire agencies, television and radio stations and photographers to cover.

Ampatuan, Bedol

Arroyo is accused of ordering two local officials to tamper with the results of the 2007 elections in Maguindanao to reflect a victory sweep for administration bets.

The prosecution said it had a witness who claimed hearing Arroyo during a Palace dinner issue a directive to then Maguindanao Governor Andal Ampatuan Sr. for all administration senatorial candidates to win in the province.

Arroyo's coaccused—Ampatuan, who is himself embroiled in another high-profile case involving the massacre of 57 civilians in 2009, and former Election Supervisor Lintang Bedol—are scheduled to be arraigned in late March. With reports from Nancy C. Carvajal and Nathaniel R. Melican, PDI; Tetch Torres and Jamie Elona, INQUIRER.net

Philippine official opposes more public holidays

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Increasing the number of holidays in the Philippines would make the country less competitive than its Southeast Asian neighbors and may turn away much-needed foreign investment, a top labor official said Thursday.

Labor Secretary Rosalinda Baldoz said she opposes legislative proposals to add up to 10 national holidays to the 18 non-working holidays already

observed in the country.

She said local non-working holidays and work stoppages caused by natural calamities already hamper productivity and increase costs.

The foreign Chambers of Commerce complained in 2010 that the many paid holidays plus the country's high labor costs compared with the region have "adversely affected" the Philippines' business competitiveness.

The Philippines has for years lagged other Southeast Asian countries in attracting foreign direct investment that could boost industry and jobs, partly because of widespread corruption in government.

The country attracted less than \$2 billion of foreign direct investment in 2010 compared with nearly \$9 billion for Malaysia, some \$12 billion for Indonesia and about \$39 billion for Singapore.

Several armed groups operate in the Zamboanga peninsula, including Muslim rebels who have been fighting for self-rule in the predominantly Christian nation for decades. Among them are groups that often turn to banditry, extortion and ransom kidnappings for survival and elude authorities by hiding in forests and on nearby islands.

A military offensive last year overran a guerrilla camp in a neighboring province but most of the fighters escaped.

Samu't Sari



NEW DLNR SECRETARY

Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Arnold I. Palacios, fifth from right, is flanked by lawmakers led by Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) after the Senate confirmed his nomination on Thursday. A day later, acting governor Eloy S. Inos sworn in Palacios.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



▲ ANTI-CANCER CAMPAIGN

Delta Air Lines representatives join members of the 2012 Marianas March Against Cancer Committee and officers of the Commonwealth Cancer Association after a news briefing at their check-in counter at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport on Feb. 14, 2012. Delta Air Lines is the first title sponsor for the signature fundraising event of the Commonwealth Cancer Association slated for April 27 to 28, from 6pm to 6am at the Hopwood Jr. High School field in Chalan Piao.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan and Education Commissioner Rita Sablan are flanked by guests during the launch of the initiative called Learning Garden at the Dandan Elementary School on Feb. 15.

CLARISSA V. DAVID



'PUSONG PINOY'

Officers and members of the United Filipino Organization pose by their booth at the start of the Pusong Pinoy Valentine festivities on Feb. 12, 2012.

CLARISSA V. DAVID



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



Belated happy birthday greetings go out to Allia Raine Pillarina, who turned 7 years old on Feb. 22! May the good Lord shower you with blessings on this special day and we pray that you will have many, many more birthdays to come. We love you so much! Greetings come from your Mom, Dad, and sister Traci.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy belated birthday to our little *pwiipwii* Bef-Linda Refalo-pei, who celebrated her special day on Feb. 23. We love you always! Shoutout coming from Mom, Dad, KK, and the rest of your Aslingen-Tong families.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy birthday to our daddy, Jeremy Faisao! We love you so much and hope you have a great day. From your kiddos Le'iane, Jaydon, and Rylee.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy birthday greetings go out to Chris Matias! Wishing you all the great things in life and hope that this day will bring you an extra share of all that makes you happiest. Some words of wisdom for your birthday: "Smile while you still have teeth!" God bless! Greetings come from your family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy birthday, Margarita Ser-gutina! You are the best mom and grandma in all the world! We love you very much! Greetings coming out from the family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Business

Higher gas prices cloud Obama's re-election hopes

WASHINGTON (AP)—Soaring gasoline prices are threatening to undercut President Barack Obama's re-election prospects and offering Republicans an easy target. With prices pushing \$4 a gallon and threatening to go even higher, Obama sought Thursday to confront rising public anxiety and strike back at his GOP critics.

Obama said dismissively that all the Republicans can talk about is more drilling—"a bumper sticker ... a strategy to get politicians through an election"—when the nation's energy challenges demand much more. In a speech in Miami, he promoted the expansion of domestic oil and gas exploration but also the development of new forms of energy.

For all the political claims, economists say there's not much a president of either party can do about gasoline prices. Certainly not in the short term. But it's clear that people are

concerned—a new Associated Press-GfK poll says seven in 10 find the issue deeply important—so it's sure to be a political issue through the summer.

"Right now, we're experiencing yet another painful reminder of why developing new energy is so critical to our future," the president said. At an average of \$3.58 a gallon, prices are already up 25 cents since Jan. 1, and experts say they could reach a record \$4.25 a gallon by Memorial Day.

Those higher prices could hurt consumer spending and unravel some of the recent improvements in the economy. And they could also be a daily reminder to voters to question Obama's contention that he's making the nation—and them—more secure.

While motorists are already starting to complain, many economists see the \$4-a-gallon mark as a breaking point above which the economy starts to suffer real pain. Analysts estimate that ev-



A motorist fuels up his truck at a gas station Tuesday, Feb. 21, 2012 in San Francisco. U.S. retail gasoline prices rose less than a penny Monday to a national average of 3.57 per gallon, according to AAA, Wright Express and Oil Price Information Service.

ery one-cent increase is roughly a \$1.4 billion drain on the economy.

Obama's Republican challengers aren't letting it all slide by. They have stepped up their attacks on his energy policies, including his rejection last

month of a pipeline to carry oil from Canada to refineries on the U.S. Gulf Coast. And they're full of promises.

"I've developed a program for American energy so no future president will ever bow to a Saudi king again, and so ev-

ery American can look forward to \$2.50-a-gallon gasoline," former House Speaker Newt Gingrich said in the Wednesday night GOP debate in Mesa, Ariz. He calls his strategy "Drill Here, Drill Now."

At the same event, former

Sen. Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania—who has warned of \$5-a-gallon gas—asserted that "we have a lot of troubles around the world, as you see the Middle East in flames and what's going on in this country with gas prices and the economy." And former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney suggested that even more troubling than rising gasoline prices was Iranian President Mahmoud "Ahmadinejad with nuclear weapons."

In his speech at the University of Miami, Obama sought to draw a contrast with his GOP challengers and made a pointed reference to what he suggested was Republican glee at rising gas prices.

"And you can bet that since it's an election year, they're already dusting off their three-point plans for \$2 gas," Obama said. "I'll save you the suspense. Step one is drill, step two is drill, and step three is keep drilling. ... We've heard the same thing for 30 years. Well, the American people aren't stupid."

Poll: Millionaire tax popular, spending cuts too

WASHINGTON (AP)—Most people like President Barack Obama's proposal to make millionaires pay a significant share of their incomes in taxes. Yet they'd still rather cut spending than boost taxes to balance the federal budget, an Associated Press-GfK poll shows, giving Republicans an edge over Democrats in their core ideological dispute over the nation's fiscal ills.

The survey suggests that while Obama's election-year tax plan targeting people making at least \$1 million a year has won broad support, it has done little to shift people's basic views in the long-running partisan war over how best to tame budget deficits that lately have exceeded \$1 trillion annually.

"Everybody should be called to sacrifice. They should be in the pot with the rest of us," Mike Whittles, 62, a Republican and retired police officer from Point Pleasant, N.J., said of his support for Obama's tax proposal for the wealthy. But Whittles said he still prefers cutting government spending over raising taxes because of federal waste and what he calls "too many rules, too many regulations."

Sixty-five percent of the people in the AP-GfK poll favor Obama's plan to require people making \$1 million or more pay taxes equal to at least 30 percent of their income. Just 26 percent opposed Obama's idea.

Yet by 56 percent to 31 percent, more embraced cuts in government services than higher taxes as the best medicine for the budget, according to the survey, which was conducted

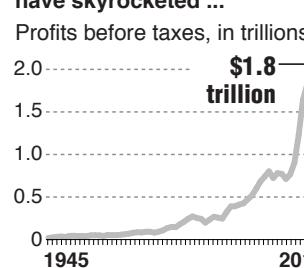
poll last March. The question on Obama's tax on the rich was not asked previously.

A case for tax adjustment

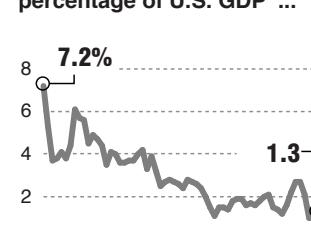
President Barack Obama is proposing a new corporate tax policy. As a recent study has shown, many of America's largest and most profitable companies now pay little or no federal income tax.

The trend

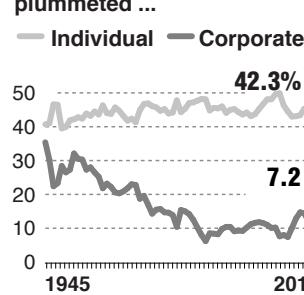
While U.S. corporate profits have skyrocketed ...



... corporate taxes as a percentage of U.S. GDP ...



... and as a share of total U.S. tax revenue have plummeted ...



... leaving the U.S. with the lowest corporate tax burden in the OECD



The low tax burden

Effective rates for most profitable Fortune 500 firms, 2008-10

	2008	2010
1. Exxon Mobil*	14.2%	
2. AT&T	8.0	
3. Chevron	24.8	
5. JPMorgan Chase	30.1	
6. Wal-Mart	30.0	
7. IBM	3.8	
8. Apple	31.3	
9. Johnson & Johnson	29.8	
11. Procter & Gamble	22.4	
12. Wells Fargo*	1.4	

*Paid no federal income tax one year

NOTE: No. 4, Microsoft, and No. 10, Berkshire Hathaway, were not included in the study

Largest total tax breaks, 2008-10

	2008	2010
Wells Fargo	\$18 billion	
AT&T	14.5	
Verizon	12.3	
General Electric	8.4	
IBM	8.3	
Exxon Mobil	4.1	
Boeing	3.6	
PNC	3.4	
Goldman Sachs	3.2	
P&G	3.2	

Source: Citizens for Tax Justice, Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, U.S. Office of Management and Budget, U.S. Internal Revenue Service, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Chicago Tribune
Graphic: Pat Carr © 2012 MCT

Small businesses find ways to cope with gas prices

NEW YORK (AP)—As any driver knows, rising gas prices can put a dent in a household budget. For small business owners, it can hurt—or even wipe out—profits.

The recent rise in the price of gas is pressuring business owners to find ways to protect their earnings. Some of their strategies are simple, such as using GPS devices to track fuel usage. Others are drastic—like moving manufacturing operations to the U.S. from Asia.

Small business owners have navigated this road before—most recently in 2008 when the price of gas rose to a national average of \$4.11 a gallon. But gas is expected to surpass that record and reach \$4.25 by late April. And even if the price follows its usual pattern of gradually falling back from a high reached in the spring, it will still be expensive for the rest of the year.

Here's a look at how some companies are coping:

A DIRECT HIT

Chris Hundley runs Limousine Connection, a 31-car limousine service in Los Angeles. He likens the surge in gas prices to "being run into by someone without insurance"—there's no way to avoid having to pay.

In 2007 Limousine Connection began adding a 3 percent fuel surcharge to its bills to offset the cost of gas. Since then, the rate has crept up to 10 percent. Hundley says customers have come to understand the necessity for a fuel surcharge, and prefer it to a rate increase.

But the company doesn't

start charging extra on its base hourly rate the minute gas prices rise. For customers that have contracts with Limousine Connection, he'll wait 30 days, and until prices have gone up 10 percent, before raising the surcharge. If prices rise, say, only 7 percent, he won't raise it. "We are eating it—it's the cost of doing business," he says.

Hundley also tracks fuel usage. Speeding or idling for extended periods wastes gas, so Hundley monitors driver behavior using the GPS systems installed in his fleet.

When the company detects wasteful patterns a manager sits down with the employee to explain how he can help the company keep down fuel expenses. Limousine Connection is so serious about saving gas that, in some cases, it has issued verbal warnings to some drivers.

Hundley also has added more fuel-efficient vehicles to its fleet. The company has some hybrids, and all except a few Mercedes use regular, rather than premium, gas.

CHEAPER TO MAKE IT IN THE U.S.

The rising cost of jet fuel has convinced Seesmart Inc. to make the commercial and household lights that it sells in U.S. factories instead of Asia. Ray Sjolseth, president of the Simi Valley, Calif.-based company, says that the savings he used to get from manufacturing overseas is being wiped out by higher air freight rates.

Sjolseth says his customers tend to have last-minute deadlines. "We don't have a choice

but to air freight the products," he says. He estimates that 80 percent of his goods are shipped by air and that rising rates are raising his manufacturing costs between 5 percent and 8 percent.

So Sjolseth's solution is to move his manufacturing to the U.S. He currently has one factory in California and expects to have one in Chicago operating by the end of the year. He estimates that a year from now, he'll save between 5 percent and 10 percent because he won't be getting shipments by air.

SHIFTING RESOURCES

Higher gas prices are cutting into travel budgets and that's hurting Towne Park Systems' revenue. The Annapolis, Md., company runs valet parking services for hotels across the country. These days, fewer guests are parking cars in hotel lots so the hotels don't need as many attendants.

Towne Park responded by shifting some staffers to different jobs, says Kirk Pozadzides, the company's general manager. The company also provides concierge and other services for hotel guests. Now, the employee who parks cars may shift to working as a concierge.

The company also added "park and fly" services. Towne Park finds unused spaces in garages near airports, and shuttles passengers to airline terminals. It costs a traveler less to use the service than it does to park in an airport lot, Pozadzides says.

"You have to find creative ways to artificially drive revenue," he says.

Nation

Copter crash one of Marines' deadliest in years

SAN DIEGO (AP)—A collision that killed seven Marines in one of the Marine Corps' deadliest aviation training accidents in years occurred over a sprawling desert range favored by the U.S. military because its craggy mountains and hot, dusty conditions are similar to Afghanistan's harsh environment.

Officials were scrambling Thursday to determine what caused the AH-1W Cobra and UH-1 Huey to crash during a routine exercise Wednesday night when skies were clear and the weather was mild.

There were no survivors in the accident near the Chocolate Mountains along the California-Arizona border.

It was the fifth aviation accident since March involving the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing headquartered at Miramar Marine Corps Air Station in San Diego. Throughout the Navy and Marine Corps, there have only been two other aviation training accidents in the past five years involving seven or more deaths, according to the military's Naval Safety Center.

"It's an unfortunate consequence of the high tempo of operations," said retired Marine Col. J.F. Joseph, an aviation safety consultant. "They're out there working on the edge try-



This video framegrab image provided Thursday Feb. 23, 2012 by KPNX-12 News shows an aerial view of a crash site where two U.S. Marine helicopters collided Wednesday over a training site in the desert near Yuma, Ariz. AP

ing to exploit the maximum capabilities of the aircraft and their tactics. Just by the virtue of that, in becoming combat ready, these unfortunately are not uncommon occurrences."

The Marine Corps and Navy, nonetheless, stand out in their efforts to mitigate that risk and make training as safe as possible, he said.

With 17,500 Marines and sailors, including personnel sta-

tioned at Camp Pendleton and Marine Corps Air Station Yuma in Arizona, the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing conducts hundreds of aviation training exercises a year so troops can get as much experience as possible before they go to war.

The number of Marines killed in the latest crash shook the military community. Chaplains and counselors were called in to talk to troops. Six of the Ma-



Source: AP, ESRI
Graphic: Samantha Piccirillo

© 2012 MCT

rines killed were from Pendleton—the West Coast's largest base—and one was from the base in Yuma.

Their identities will not be released until their families have all been notified.

Gov. Jerry Brown issued a statement on behalf of himself and his wife: "Anne and I offer our condolences to the families and friends of the Marines who died last night. We honor their bravery and sacrifice."

Two of the Marines were aboard the AH-1W Cobra and the rest were in the UH-1 Huey utility helicopter. They were flying in a remote section of the 1.2-million-acre Yuma Training Range Complex as part of a two-week standard training called "Scorpion Fire" that involved a squadron of about 450 troops from the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing.

The helicopters collided near dunes at the edge of the Yuma range about an hour before the range was to shut down for the evening. Ground troops were in the area, but they were not affected, said Gunnery Sgt. Dustin Dunk, a spokesman at the Yuma base, which is a 90-minute drive from the accident site.

Part of the exercise involved having helicopters low on fuel descend to ground troops that

have set up a refueling outpost, Dunk said.

He did not know if that's what the pilots were doing at the time of the crash.

"Our training is always evolving, safety is paramount, and being prepared is paramount," he said. "It was a very standard exercise for what we do. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family members. ... Our investigation will look to see what went wrong and how to correct it."

The AH-1W carries a pilot and gunner and is considered the Marine Corps' main attack helicopter. The UH-1Y, which is replacing the aging version of the Huey utility helicopter first used during the Vietnam War, carries one or two pilots, a crew chief and other crew members, depending on the mission.

Hueys often are used to pick up and drop off ground crews, while Cobras hover by ready to fire if the Huey comes under attack.

In other crashes in the past year, a twin-engine, two-seat AH-1W Cobra helicopter went down in September during training in a remote area of Camp Pendleton, killing two Marine pilots and igniting a brush fire that burned about 120 acres at the base north of San Diego.

Romney pounces on Santorum's Senate compromises

MILFORD, Mich. (AP)—Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney tried to upend Rick Santorum's image as a principled defender of conservative ideals Thursday, telling voters in Arizona and Michigan that the former senator is just another give-and-take politician.

Romney's team believes Santorum opened himself to the attacks with a somewhat anguished explanation of his reluctant vote for a Bush-era school program in Wednesday's televised debate. Romney hoped to stop his chief rival's momentum on a day when Santorum was quietly raising money.

But President Barack Obama wasn't helping. His allies aired

anti-Romney ads in Michigan while the president campaigned in Florida, a crucial swing state that GOP candidates can't afford to re-visit until their nominee is settled.

A Romney setback in either Michigan's primary or Arizona's on Tuesday would be embarrassing, or worse. His campaign seemed grateful for Santorum's unsteady showing in what may have been the GOP campaign's last big debate.

Romney pounced on Santorum's explanation for supporting President George W. Bush's "No Child Left Behind" program, now disliked by many conservatives. "It was against the principles I believed in," Santorum said

in the debate. "But, you know, when you're part of the team, sometimes you take one for the team."

"I wonder which team he was taking it for," Romney said Thursday at an Associated Builders and Contractors meeting in Phoenix, before heading to Michigan. "My team is the American people, not the insiders in Washington."

Santorum also struggled in the debate to explain his congressional votes for earmarked spending and for a bill that included money for Planned Parenthood despite his "personal moral objection" to the organization, which provides abortions for low-income women.

"I don't know that I've ever

seen a politician explain in so many ways why he voted against his principles," Romney said Thursday.

The issue could prove troubling for Santorum, who lacks the money to match Romney's TV ads. Santorum's chief strengths include his image as a courageous social conservative willing to confront voters about the moral implications of birth control, abortion, divorce and other issues.

At a tea party rally in Tucson shortly before the debate, Santorum said he was "unafraid to go out and fight on all the issues we care about." He referred to Romney as "a well-oiled weather vane" that shifts with political winds.

Stepmom gives birth after arrest in girl's death

District Attorney Jimmie Harp confirmed that Hardin had given birth hours after she was arrested. He said he didn't know whether the newborn was a boy or a girl. Hardin and her mother-in-law, 46-year-old Joyce Hardin Garrard, were charged with murder on Wednesday in the death of Savannah Hardin.

Roger Simpson, who lives up the hill from the doublewide trailer where Savannah lived with Jessica and her father Robert Hardin, said he saw the

girl running in the yard. When emergency vehicles arrived at the home hours later, he said he thought they were there for the pregnant woman.

Alabama law requires people who are arrested to be informed of the charges against them in an initial appearance within 72 hours. Barton said Jessica Hardin's hearing will likely be held once she is released from the hospital.

The Birmingham News reports that Hardin has been ap-

pointed Morgan Cunningham as a public defender. Cunningham did not immediately return calls from The Associated Press.

A defense attorney for Garrard said the woman has been falsely accused.

"It is my belief Ms. Garrard will be vindicated... and found not guilty of the allegation against her," attorney Dani Bone wrote in a statement. "Even then, Joyce Garrard and her family will continue to grieve over the loss of their beloved Savannah."

Sex tape of John Edwards, mistress to be destroyed

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)—The purported sex tape of former presidential candidate John Edwards and his mistress will be destroyed within 30 days after a lawsuit over who owned the tape was settled Thursday.

Rielle Hunter sued former Edwards aide Andrew Young and his wife in 2010 over the tape and other personal items the couple said she left in a box of trash while they were helping her hide out as the former North Carolina senator ran for the White House. Hunter lived with the Youngs while she was pregnant with Edwards' baby, and Young initially said he was the father.

In the settlement, the Youngs agreed to give up their claim on the tape and other property, which has been held in the vault of a North Carolina courthouse. Hunter has long wanted the tapes destroyed.

"We are very pleased that this settlement achieved all that she had ever hoped to achieve with this lawsuit," said Allison Van Laningham, one of Hunter's lawyers.

A lawyer for the Youngs said they were pleased with the settlement.

"There were no 'winners' as such, in that each side had

returned back to it that which it believed was its own property, although it was mutually agreed that certain materials should, per the court's order, be destroyed," lawyer David Pishko said. "Notably, notwithstanding the outlandish efforts of Ms. Hunter's legal counsel to try to paint Mr. and Mrs. Young as liars and thieves, nothing could be further from the truth—as is unequivocally evidenced by this settlement agreement."

The Youngs also agreed not to talk publicly about the tape or the other items, which include photos of Hunter in a bikini as well as picture of her with her child. There is also a tape of Frances Quinn Hunter's birth. She turns 4 years old on Monday.

The items also included a handwritten list of male names titled "The Slut Club." It was not clear in the settlement what the list was referring to.

The tape shows Edwards in a sexual encounter with a pregnant Hunter, who filmed the tape.

According to testimony in the lawsuit, the ribbon of tape had been pulled out of the cassette in an apparent attempt to destroy it.

Asia

Obama apologizes as Afghan Quran protests rage

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—President Barack Obama apologized to Afghans on Thursday for the burning of Qurans at a U.S. military base, trying to assuage rising anti-American sentiment as an Afghan soldier gunned down two American troops during another day of angry protests.

The U.S.-led military coalition says the Muslim holy books were sent by mistake to a garbage burn pit at Bagram Air Field and the case is under investigation. The explanation and multiple apologies from U.S. officials have yet to calm outrage over the incident, which has also heightened tension between international troops and their Afghan partners.

Thousands of protesters, some shouting “Long live Islam!” and “Death to America!” staged demonstrations across Afghanistan for a third day. Protesters climbed the walls of a U.S. base in the east, threw stones inside and adorned an outside wall with the Taliban’s trademark white flag.

At other sites, demonstrators burned tires or American flags. Afghan police and international troops fired guns in the air to disperse the crowds.

The protests sparked clashes with Afghan security forces that left at least five demonstrators dead. A Norwegian soldier was wounded by a hand grenade hurled into a coalition compound.

On Wednesday, six people died in protests in Kabul and three other provinces.

The civil unrest comes at a

time when Afghan President Hamid Karzai is trying to negotiate a long-term partnership agreement with the United States to govern the activities of U.S. forces in Afghanistan after 2014, when most foreign combat troops will have left or taken on support roles.

Karzai called for calm until an investigation is completed, but the incident highlighted the fitful and often strained relationship of the two nations.

White House press secretary Jay Carney told reporters aboard Air Force One that Obama’s apology to Karzai was “appropriate given the sensitivity” of the issue. He said the apology was part of a three-page letter to the Afghan leader. Presidential apologies are rare, but he noted that former White House press secretary Dana Perino apologized on behalf of President George W. Bush in 2008 after a U.S. serviceman shot a Quran.

Tommy Vietor, a spokesman for the National Security Council at the White House, said Obama’s letter, which addressed issues being negotiated in the partnership document, was delivered by Ryan Crocker, the U.S. ambassador to Afghanistan. In the letter, Obama expressed “regret and apologies over the incident in which religious materials were unintentionally mishandled,” Vietor said.

Karzai met Thursday with parliamentarians—many of whom had been particularly vitriolic Wednesday in calling for Afghans to wage a holy war against international forces. The Afghan president told the law-



An Afghan protestor holds a copy of Islam's holy book Quran as he shouts slogans during an anti-US demonstration in Jalalabad, east of Kabul, Afghanistan, Wednesday, Feb. 22, 2012.

makers they were right to raise their voices against the desecration of Islam’s holy book, but said a government investigation was the appropriate way to handle the case, according to a statement issued by his office.

The statement said Karzai told the lawmakers that a U.S. officer responsible for the burn-

ing “didn’t understand” what he was doing and that the United States had “accepted the mistake of its officer.”

The coalition said the investigation is still under way.

The unrest started Tuesday when Afghan workers at the sprawling American base north of Kabul noticed that Qurans

and other Islamic texts were in the trash that coalition troops dumped into a pit where garbage is burned. Some Afghan workers burned their fingers as they tried to salvage some of the books. Afghan government officials said initial reports indicated four Qurans were burned.

The materials had been taken from a library at Parwan Detention Facility, which adjoins the base, because they contained extremist messages or inscriptions. Writing inside a Quran is forbidden in the Islamic faith, and it is unclear whether the handwritten messages were found in the holy book or other reading materials.

A military official said it appeared that detainees at the prison were exchanging messages by making notations in the texts.

A delegation of Afghan religious leaders, lawmakers and government representatives visited Bagram as part of the investigation. They issued a statement late Thursday calling for an end to protests and accused insurgents of infiltrating the gatherings to foment violence. They said they expected those responsible for the Quran burning to be prosecuted through the U.S. military court system.

The Taliban used the opportunity to incite more attacks on foreign forces. In a statement, Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid described the burning as an “unforgivable crime.” He urged Afghan army and police to become “real sons of the nation” by turning their guns on coalition forces.

Afghan authorities said dem-

onstrations were staged inside the capital and in seven of Afghanistan’s 34 provinces.

The deadliest was held outside an American base in the Khogyani district of Nangarhar province in eastern Afghanistan. Two protesters were killed by Afghan police and an Afghan soldier turned his gun on American troops, killing two.

It was the latest in a rising spate of incidents where Afghan soldiers or police or militants wearing their uniforms, have shot and killed U.S. and NATO service members.

District chief Mohammad Hassan said the two Americans were shot by a member of the Afghan National Army stationed at the base. Pentagon press secretary George Little later confirmed the two U.S. troops had died.

In northern Afghanistan, more than 10,000 people demonstrated at four locations in Baghlan, the capital of Baghlan province. Sayed Zamanuddin, deputy provincial police chief, said protesters tried to burn down a police office and then fired at police. He said the police returned fire. One person was killed.

In the south, two people were killed in Dihrawud district of Uruzgan province, said Farid Ayal, a spokesman for the provincial police.

He said insurgents infiltrated the demonstration and shooting broke out between the police and those in the crowd of about 2,000.

Also in the north, protesters hurled rocks and tried to remove the razor wire from the perimeter of a U.S. base in Mehterlam, the capital of Laghman province.

US, N Korea in first nuclear talks since Kim death

BEIJING (AP)—The United States and North Korea began a second day of talks Friday on restarting nuclear disarmament in return for aid, negotiations that were delayed by the death of North Korea’s longtime leader Kim Jong Il two months ago.

The discussions, which ran all day Thursday, could signal whether North Korea under new leader Kim Jong Un is ready to agree to steps demanded by Washington and Pyongyang’s neighbors to return to broader multinational disarmament talks. More than three years have passed since the last six-nation discussions, which are meant to provide aid and diplo-

matic concessions in return for the North taking verifiable steps to mothball its nuclear weapons programs.

Kim’s Dec. 17 death upended a tentative deal between the United States and North Korea in which Pyongyang would have suspended its uranium enrichment in return for food.

U.S. envoy Glyn Davies told reporters before meeting his counterpart Kim Kye Gwan on Friday that the talks had covered all major areas.

“All those same issues, that begin with de-nuclearization but go on to non-proliferation, humanitarian affairs, human rights,

Pakistan: Militants attack police station, kill 3

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—Suicide bombers armed with assault rifles and grenades attacked a police station in the northwestern Pakistan city of Peshawar early Friday, killing three officers in an assault authorities said was likely in revenge for offensives against nearby strongholds.

The attack was the latest in a spasm of violence in or close to Peshawar, showing that local militants retain the capacity to strike. The army has claimed success in its fight against militants behind five years of violence in the country, but the insurgents have proved resilient.

Peshawar has been a frequent

target of militant attacks over the last few years, but most have been bomb blasts, not coordinated assaults in the center of the city such as Friday’s attack.

City police chief Imtiaz Altaf said three militants entered the compound after attacking the main gate, then blew themselves up when police returned fire, he said.

“They wanted to occupy this police station, but they failed,” he told reporters.

He said the attack was likely in revenge for ongoing military offensives in the region.

On Thursday, a car bomb killed 12 people at an outdoor minibus terminal in Peshawar.

ASIA BRIEFS

Indonesia moves some inmates from riot-hit prison

BALI, Indonesia (AP)—Indonesian authorities trying to move foreigners, women and children out of a prison hit by two days of riots have returned 13 of them to the tense, overcrowded jail on the resort island of Bali. The military had said the evacuations were planned for the safety of inmates who could become hostages or international bargaining chips as tensions at the prison showed no signs of easing. Fourteen foreigners who had rejected being transferred were among 31 inmates initially moved out earlier in the evening. There is no explanation on why the 13 were returned late Thursday, but one police officer said it was the policy of the prison warden. The officer spoke on condition of anonymity because he had no authority to speak to the media.

Australian inquest opens in dingo-baby mystery

SYDNEY (AP)—More than three decades after an infant vanished from a tent in the Australian Outback, a coroner is expected to finally answer the question that divided a nation: Did a dingo take the baby? On Friday, Northern Territory Coroner Elizabeth Morris opened a fourth inquest into the death of 9-week-old Azaria Chamberlain, whose disappearance in 1980 sparked the most notorious and bitterly controversial legal drama in Australian history. Azaria’s mother, Lindy Chamberlain, was convicted and later cleared of murdering her daughter and has always maintained that a wild dog took the baby. She and her ex-husband, Michael Chamberlain, are hoping fresh evidence they have gathered about dingo attacks on children will finally convince the coroner to declare that a dingo killed Azaria and end relentless speculation that has followed them for 32 years.

World

In battered Syrian city, cries of 'tragic' plight

BEIRUT (AP)—Medics stitch wounds with thread used for clothing. Hungry residents risk Syrian government sniper fire or shelling to hunt for dwindling supplies of bread and canned food on the streets of the besieged city of Homs.

The opposition stronghold was being destroyed “inch by inch,” by government forces, with collapsed walls and scorched buildings, according to accounts Thursday, while Western and Arab leaders hoped to silence the guns long enough to rush in relief aid.

The pressure for “humanitarian corridors” into the central Syrian city of Homs and other places caught in President Bashar Assad’s crushing attacks appeared to be part of shifts toward more aggressive steps against his regime after nearly a year of bloodshed and thousands of deaths in an anti-government uprising.

In back-to-back announcements, U.N.-appointed investigators in Geneva said a list for possible crimes against humanity prosecution reaches as high as Assad, and international envoys in London—including U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton—made final touches to an expected demand for Assad to call a cease-fire within days to permit emergency shipments of food and medicine.

Washington and European allies remain publicly opposed to direct military intervention. But there have been growing



In this Wednesday, Feb. 22, 2012 citizen journalism image provided by the Local Coordination Committees in Syria and accessed on Thursday, Feb. 23, 2012, flames rise from a house from Syrian government shelling, at Baba Amr neighborhood in Homs province, Syria.

signs that Western leaders could back efforts to open channels for supplies and weapons to the Syrian opposition, which includes breakaway soldiers from Assad’s military.

In a sign of the international divide, however, key Assad ally Russia said Moscow and Beijing remain opposed to any foreign interference in Syria. Russian President Dmitry Medvedev spoke by telephone with the president of the United Arab Emirates and emphasized that “foreign interference, attempts to assess the legitimacy of the leadership of a state from

the outside, run counter to the norms of international law and are fraught with the threat of regional and global destabilization,” the Kremlin said.

“It is a deeply frustrating situation,” British Foreign Secretary William Hague told BBC radio ahead of the London talks. He said that the Assad regime “has continued to act seemingly with impunity.”

At least 16 people were killed across Syria, activists said. One group, the Local Coordination Committees, put the number at 40 with attacks ranging from mountain villages to areas near

the capital of Damascus. The reason for the differing tolls was not immediately clear.

The most intense offensive, however, remained on beleaguered Homs, Syria’s third-largest city. Its defiance—amid hundreds of civilian casualties in the past weeks—has eroded Assad’s narrative that the uprising is the work of “armed thugs” and foreign plots.

Images posted online and



accounts from activists and correspondents smuggled in—including two Western journalists killed Wednesday—also have stirred comparisons to sieges such as Misrata during last year’s Arab Spring revolt in Libya.

The epicenter—the Baba Amr neighborhood on the city’s southeast corner—is a collection of slum-like apartment blocks with peeling paint and neglected older homes. They draw in workers and fortune-seekers from across Syria to a place known as the “mother of the poor” because of its cheaper cost of living, compared with Damascus or Aleppo.

“They are blanketing Baba Amr with shells and snipers. They are destroying it street by street, inch by inch,” local activist Omar Shaker told The Associated Press.

Residents say 70 percent of the area is now inhabitable in harsh winter weather with temperatures dipping close to freezing some nights. Walls have collapsed; windows are shattered from shells that fall as much as two-a-minute during some of the heaviest barrages.

Another Homs activist, Muham al-Jundi, called the conditions “catastrophic” in parts of the city, spreading over a valley in central Syria just 18 miles (30 kilometers) from the Lebanese border. Long lines form at even rumors of bread, cans of food or fuel for heaters, he said.

“There simply isn’t enough to go around anymore,” said Rami Abdul-Rahman, director of the British-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

Syria’s state-run media pushed back with its own version: Running photos on the official news agency SANA that claim to show markets full of food in Homs. It called the claims about food shortages “fabricating lies.”

Activists give a very different view. Bodies are buried wherever people can find space, they say. The wounded are too scared to try to reach government-controlled hospitals in other parts of the city. Instead, they stagger into makeshift clinics in kitchens and offices, al-Jundi said.

Official: Argentine train crash was avoidable

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina

(AP)—Argentina’s deadliest train accident in decades was foreseeable and preventable, the nation’s auditor general complained Thursday, saying years of failed safety tests and other problems had given the government more than enough reason to cancel the train operator’s concession.

Others pointed to high-level corruption: years-old allegations still awaiting trial that a former transportation secretary took free vacations and other gifts from executives of the Trains of Buenos Aires company in exchange for favorable treatment.

The TBA blamed government price controls, saying that keeping fares to less than 25 cents a ride made it impossible to finance improvements.

Rail safety experts, meanwhile, said modern trains are built to withstand the kind of hard stop that killed 50 passengers and injured more than 700 Wednesday.

Newer cars resist the accordion-like crumpling that shoved hundreds into a jumbled mass of limbs, metal and blood in the first two cars when the commuter train hit a shock-absorbing barrier at less than 12 mph (20 kph). But these cars were more than four decades old, “Toshiba

the day before.

Auditor General Leandro Despouy, however, said TBA had been failing safety requirements since 2002. Many of these compliance problems were raised in an extremely critical report in 2008, which recommended ending the concession granted to TBA in 1995 during Argentina’s privatization era.

“Back in 2008 we had verification of dramatic and alarming brake problems,” Despouy said.

Roque Cirigliano, TBA’s trains director and a cousin of the company’s owners, discounted the possibility of brake failure and said human error might have caused the crash. He called the trains safe for travel, and said TBA has spent more on maintenance than other Argentine railroad companies, despite company complaints that government limits on ticket prices have depressed revenues.

On its website, TBA says low ticket prices mean passengers don’t cover even half the salaries and benefits of its 4,500 workers. Because the government keeps prices low as a benefit to working-class Argentines, the company struggles to cover operating costs, provide higher quality service, and attract private financing to fund improvements, it says.

‘Friends of Syria’ consider ultimatum to Assad

LONDON (AP)—The U.S., Europe and Arab nations Thursday crafted a stern warning to Syrian President Bashar Assad: Agree to an immediate cease-fire and allow humanitarian aid into areas hardest hit by his regime’s brutal crackdown on opponents, or face as yet unspecified punishments.

U.S., European and Arab officials met in London to work out details of an ultimatum to Assad. Diplomats said it would demand immediate compliance or result in additional punitive measures, likely to include toughened sanctions. The ultimatum is to be presented at a major international conference on Syria set for Friday in Tunisia.

A draft of the document obtained by The Associated Press calls on “the Syrian government to implement an immediate cease-fire and to allow free and unimpeded access by the United Nations and humanitarian agencies to carry out a full assessment of needs in Homs and other areas.”

Homs has been under a

fierce government attack for nearly three weeks.

The draft, which is still subject to change, also demands “that humanitarian agencies be permitted to deliver vital relief goods and services to civilians affected by the violence.” More than 5,400 people have been killed in the nearly year-old uprising.

Meanwhile, Tunisia’s presidential spokesman, Adnan Mancer, told The Associated Press in an interview ahead of Friday’s meeting that the North African country will propose a political solution to the Syrian crisis that includes the deployment of a peace-keeping force and Assad stepping down from power.

The political transition would be akin to what happened in Yemen, where president Ali Abdullah Saleh stepped down in favor of his deputy after widespread protests. The Arab League already has made similar calls on Assad.

Also on the eve of the meeting, the United Nations announced that former secretary-

general Kofi Annan would be the joint U.N.-Arab League envoy to Syria. His mandate will be to try to end the violence and arrange a political transition.

American officials accompanying U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton to the Tunis meeting of the “Friends of Syria” said the group hoped to make clear to Assad that his regime has a moral obligation to end the shelling of civilian areas and allow assistance into the country. The burden is on Assad to respond to the demands of the international community, they said.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the ongoing discussions over how the ultimatum will be presented at the Tunis conference.

Several nations have proposed creating protected corridors through which humanitarian relief could flow but it was not clear whether a consensus could be reached on the matter, as such a step almost certainly would require a military component.

Youngstyle

MARTHA IRVINE
AP NATIONAL WRITER

CHICAGO (AP)—Young people want their music, TV and movies now—even if it means they get these things illegally.

A recent Columbia University survey found, in fact, that 70 percent of 18- to 29-year-olds said they had bought, copied or downloaded unauthorized music, TV shows or movies, compared with 46 percent of all adults who'd done the same.

With such an entrenched attitude, what can be done about widespread online piracy?

Certainly law enforcement has gone after scofflaws like these, hitting them with fines and, in some cases, even jail time. Congress is considering controversial anti-piracy bills that would, among other things, forbid search engines from linking to foreign websites accused of copyright infringement. And there are lawsuits pitting media heavyweights against Internet firms—notably Viacom's billion-dollar litigation against YouTube.

But here's a radical notion to consider: What if young people who steal content weren't viewed as the problem?

What if they and advocates for maximum online access could persuade the entertainment industry to loosen its tight grip on its coveted, copyrighted material - quite the opposite of what the industry is trying to do right now?

"The real problem is not pirates downloading illegally, but a failure to innovate on the part of the content providers," says Steven Budd, a law student at Drexel University in Philadelphia.

Like it or not, that's how a lot of people of his generation view the situation. And some experts think they're gaining clout, as they insist on easy access to music and other content while the Internet world loudly protests anti-piracy legislation that it says unfairly puts the responsibility of policing piracy sites on search engines and other sites.

"We've seen the emergence of a real social movement around these issues," says Joe Karaganis, vice president of The American Assembly, a public policy institute at Columbia University, which oversaw the recent survey, funded by a grant from Google.

He's talking, in part, about "blackouts" staged by popular Internet sites that included Wikipedia, the user-generated online encyclopedia, and Reddit, the social news website. With support from Google, Facebook and Twitter, they were protesting the proposed federal anti-piracy bills.

But here's the surprising part—a lot of young people don't necessarily expect to get movies, TV shows and music for free.

"I do think people would pay for this content if it's reasonably priced and it's available when they want to watch it," says Srikant Mikkilineni, a law student at Drake University in Des Moines.

Not wanting to mar his law school record, Mikkilineni pays for the songs, movies and TV shows he downloads. But he does so grudgingly. "Right now, they want us to pay multiple times for the same content," he says, complaining that that's not reasonable.

If he buys a DVD, for instance, it's \$15. He can watch it on his laptop—but it's illegal for him to copy it in order to watch it on his iPod or smart phone.

Many young people point to Apple's iTunes service as a model that could be replicated by other entertainment companies.

"iTunes changed the landscape for music because it made it far too convenient and much easier than downloading music through alternative methods (even illegal ones)," says Matt Gardner, an information technology student at Rochester Institute of Technology in New York.

But even more than convenience, a recent study at Duke University found that cost was the major factor that drives college students to copy entertainment content illegally. Researchers there found that the lower the students' income, including their parents' income, the more likely they were to search for free, illegal options.

To address the issue of cost, the study's authors suggested that universities consider making licens-



AP

In this Monday, Jan. 30, 2012 photo, Drake University law school student Srikant Mikkilineni stands with his laptop computer in the school's law library in Des Moines, Iowa. Some observers say that instead of focusing on punishing youth for stealing music, TV and movies, the entertainment industry should be more innovative in the delivery of content, making it more easily available and cheaper. "I do think people would pay for this content if it's reasonably priced and it's available when they want to watch it," Mikkilineni says. Not wanting to mar his law school record, he pays for the songs, movies and TV shows he downloads. But he does so grudgingly. "Right now, they want us to pay multiple times for the same content," he says, complaining that that's not reasonable.

Youth shaping future of online TV, movies, music

ing agreements with services that sell entertainment content so that students could get a discount.

Cornell University is one institution that has experimented with this. From 2004 to 2006, an anonymous donor paid for two years' worth of Napster service for Cornell students, but students ultimately declined to have their student activity fees raised to continue the service because the music couldn't be played on all devices, according to the Duke study.

There are those who doubt that students would pay for content they can pirate, especially when the habit has become so ingrained.

"Nobody's going to pay you for something they can get for free," says Glenn MacDonald, an economics professor at the Olin School of Business at Washington University in St. Louis.

So he asks: What if you gave music and movies to consumers for free, or asked them to pay what they thought the content was worth?

Some bands such as Radiohead are already doing that - in essence, using their songs to build a following and entice people to pay to see them in concert and, once there, to buy their merchandise.

The song becomes the ad, MacDonald says. Or a movie on the small screen becomes the driving force for a line of merchandise or drives the wish to see it again on a big screen in 3-D or at a special theater event. A free clip from a TV show seen online draws viewers to the show.

"It's like a bar. They give you the peanuts so you buy the beer," MacDonald says.

He notes that music companies already take a cut of money made from concerts, merchandise and endorsements. So he thinks that should, at the very least, offset the cost of the recorded music to

consumers, who've been increasingly willing to pay big prices to see artists live.

"Music companies would be better served by increasing their focus on how to make artists' music, and especially their concerts, even better," MacDonald says.

Nice thought, but not realistic, says Thomas Carpenter, general counsel for legislative affairs for the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists, a union that represents people working in the entertainment industry.

As it stands, he says 90 percent of the earnings that a musician currently makes under a recording contract is tied directly to royalties from sales, including lawful downloads. For actors, he says, it's about 50 percent.

"There's a lot at stake—much more than most people realize," Carpenter says.

And he adds, "You have to be paid in order to be good. You have to use the funds from your projects to fund your future creativity."

Still even some people who've spent their careers defending copyrights say it's time to find some middle ground.

"It really is a failure to come up with practical, reasonable models for sales and distribution," says Michael R. Graham, a Chicago attorney who specializes in trademark and copyright law. "There's a real disconnect."

Like many, he thinks iTunes has set the standard for the future.

Another possible approach: licensing agreements—with online services, for instance, paying a fee to content creators so they can provide it to consumers for free or for a monthly subscription fee.

Popular options, so far, include online music streaming services such as Spotify and Pandora. Others point to movie and TV services such as Netflix, though some complain that content on Netflix's online streaming service is still too limited. Hundreds of thousands of people also quit Netflix last year after it started charging more to those who wanted both the streaming service and DVDs sent to them in the mail—another indication of just how much impact the public can have in these matters.

A major lawsuit now before a federal appeals court has put a spotlight on these issues.

Viacom Inc. is appealing a lower court ruling that found YouTube, Google Inc.'s popular video sharing service, is protected from copyright infringement claims. Viacom claims that YouTube is making millions when people post copyrighted videos -including some shows Viacom owns. YouTube says it forces people to remove the content when discovered, as the law allows.

During October proceedings before the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Manhattan, Judge Roger Miner asked, "How in the world can damages be computed here?"

"The number could be quite large," said Viacom attorney Paul Smith.

Miner responded: "Maybe what you're really looking for is a license agreement."

Smith said that was possible—an outcome that some would consider a win for those who want greater access to content on the Internet.

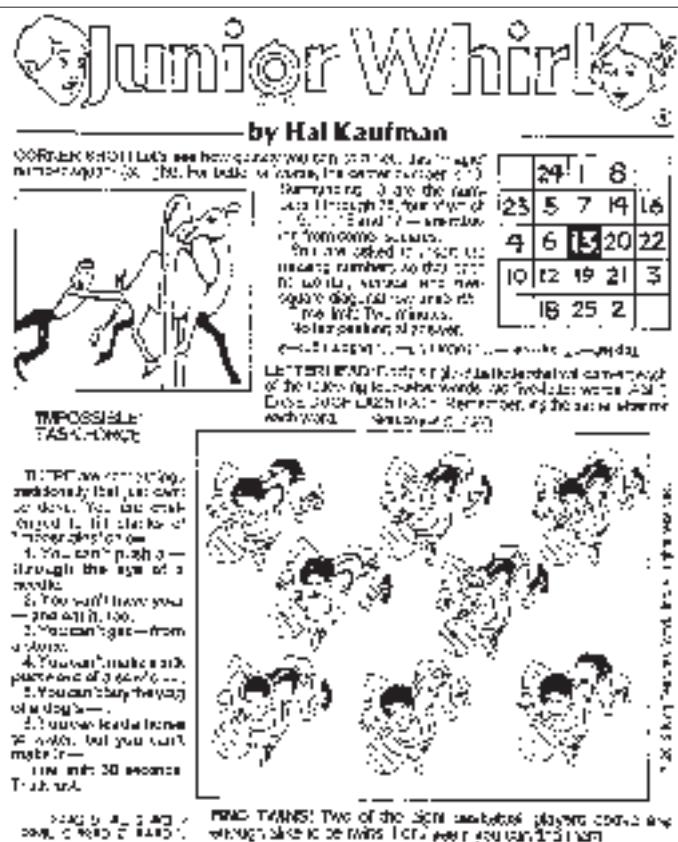
Whatever happens, college student Omar Ahmad says the entertainment industry has to realize that people his age aren't likely to change their piracy habits, even with the threat of more serious punishments that Congress is considering.

"They're going to continue doing it—that's the truth," says Ahmad, a senior at Seton Hall University who's also manager of the New Jersey school's radio station.

Karaganis at Columbia agrees that young people and the Internet community in general have proven they can influence the entertainment industry, whether it likes it or not.

"Change is inevitable," he says. "The question is how quickly will it happen—and how much of a fortress will be built around intellectual property in the meantime."

"Now, I think all bets are off."



SPELLBINDER

SCORE: 9 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words.

CHANDEL

THEY score 2 points even for 6 words of two letters. Add 1 point for using the others.

They do count at least 30 points. See how you did.

Strange BUT TRUE

by Samantha Weaver

■ It was English philosopher Francis Bacon who made the following sage observation: "The root of all superstition is that men observe when a thing hits, but not when it misses."

■ I'm sure you've seen photos of those picturesque covered bridges. It seems that they would have provided a welcome haven for people driving buggies caught out in the rain. You may be surprised to learn, though, that the bridges weren't designed with a roof for the comfort of travelers. Being made of wood in an era before protective sealants, the bridges themselves needed to be protected from the elements.

■ Most frogs lay their eggs in the water; that way, when the tadpoles hatch they are already in their element. The red-eyed tree frog, however, protects its eggs from aquatic predators by attaching its eggs to the underside of leaves that hang out over a body of water. Once the eggs hatch, the tadpoles fall into the water.

■ The next time you travel to the United Kingdom, if you visit the university towns of Cambridge or Oxford, you should keep off the grass. Professors are the only ones allowed to walk on most of the green swards in those towns.

■ In ancient Rome, it was widely believed that holding in gas could cause a person to catch a disease or become poisoned. This was such a concern to public health that Emperor Claudius went so far as to pass a law making it legal to fart at banquets.

■ Have you ever known someone who keeps making the same error over and over again despite being corrected? The next time you run into this person, you'll know what to call him or her: a mumpsimus.

■ ■ ■

Thought for Today: "I have no special talents. I am only passionately curious." —Albert Einstein

(c) 2012 King Features Synd., Inc.

MAGIC MAZE • WORDS USING ALL 8 TYPING FINGERS

R G E C A X V P M A C K R O W
P A N E L I S T O G T R P N I.
B J I L I F E S P A N H I S F G D
J B Y X S V T R P I T T N O M
P R I G E P D C A P T I O N S
I S E N T I A R P I S D A R Y
A X W U I R Q I O A N U I C J
N I G A H P O S E C I A G E S
E S R E N I P L A S D L C A Y
S X W S T O P K C A J P V T S
G N I D L A P S P I L E R A H

For advanced users in Jr. High: ...to make all lowercase, forward, backward, up, down and diagonal.

Alpines Hanolice Plaudts See ring
Captions Jacksons Pleasing Spaking
Elasping Lite scar Pentace Work camp
Escaphal Panist Pralines

© 2012 King Features Synd. Inc. All rights reserved.

GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

This index of Go Figure is to assist you in solving the figures given at the bottom and right hand corners of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and up to down). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete the blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★★

* Moderate ** Difficult
*** GO FIGURE!

-		×		15
+	+		×	
÷		+		11
÷	×		÷	
+		×		12
15	12	10		
1	2	3	4	5
3	4	5	6	8
4	5	6	7	9

MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



GO FIGURE ANSWER

51	21	11
31	7	1
1	2	3
11	6	4
51	5	9

Why purebreds should be spayed, neutered

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: In a list of "responsible" things one should do to their pets, you wrote that owners should spay or neuter them. Well, I own a purebred German shepherd, and I think your advice is just wrong for owners of purebred pets. Maybe mongrels from the shelter need to be spayed and neutered but doing that to my "shep" will alter his behavior. Plus I plan to breed him. You should rethink your advice.—Tom C., Roswell, Ga.



herd may indeed cause behavioral changes; in many dogs the procedure reduces aggression. But you also eliminate the risk of your dog getting out and fathering a bunch of unwanted puppies with, say, the owner of different breed of dog who thought her precious also was too special to be spayed.

But you don't have to believe me. Talk to your dog's vet, or to a professional AKC-registered breeder of German shepherds (learn more at www.akc.org), and get the facts.

■ ■ ■

Send your questions or tips to ask@pawscorner.com, or write to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. For more pet care-related advice and information, visit www.pawscorner.com.

(c) 2012 King Features Synd., Inc.

Celebrations bring families together



Mark your discoveries on your calendar and count them up at the end of the month.

■ Celebrate brighter evenings when you spring forward with Daylight Savings Time on March 11.

■ Celebrate Irish-American culture on St. Patrick's Day, March 17.

For fun, tint a dollop of shaving cream with green food coloring and finger-paint a shamrock on the bathroom mirror on Saturday morning. Attend a St. Patrick's Day parade, and make mulligan stew for dinner.

■ Celebrate March winds and fly a kite or and hang a wind chime outside.

■ Celebrate the joy of creativity and laughter. Plan an April Fools Day caper to surprise a friend on April 1.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning series "Donna's Day" is airing on public television nationwide. To find more of her creative family recipes and activities, visit www.donnasdaday.com and link to the NEW Donna's Day Facebook fan page. Her latest book is "Donna Erickson's Fabulous Funstuff for Families."

(c) 2012 Donna Erickson

Distributed by King Features Synd.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

*Antonio Muña Dela Cruz***Lovingly known as "Ton"***Born on January 17, 1951 was called to eternal rest on February 21, 2012 in San Jose, Tinian***In his new life, he now joins his:**

Parents: †Manuel Lizama & †Blandina Muña Dela Cruz
Maternal Grandparents: †Vicente Sablan & †Soledad Cabrera Muña
Paternal Grandparents: †Pedro Salas Dela Cruz & †Dolores Lizama Dela Cruz
Sisters: †Ignacia Muña Dela Cruz
 †Dolores Muña Dela Cruz

His loving memories will forever live in the hearts of his:**Wife: Jesusa A. Dela Cruz****Children:**

- **Melissa E. Dela Cruz**
Children: Sharlene, Selena & William
- **Vicki Dela Cruz & Donald L. Allgood III**
Children: Nasha Marie, Junora, Renandra, Reanna, Wayomi, Wayan, Wayne Jr. & Rosa
- **Rose Ann Dela Cruz & William A. Guevarra**
Children: Jonalyn, Jhomari, Jessilyn, Jarissa, Zylene, Kyle John, Xavier John
- **Sandra T. Dela Cruz & Wayne Lizama**
Children: †Nasha Marie, Junora, Renandra, Reanna, Wayomi, Wayan, Wayne Jr. & Rosa
- **John T. Dela Cruz & Jormalou B. Tamonte**
Children: Jonalyn, Jhomari, Jessilyn, Jarissa, Zylene, Kyle John, Xavier John
- **Christopher W. & Jbonnie Castro Aguon**
Children: John
- **Connie T. Dela Cruz**
Children: Lizann Courtney, Austin Jose, Alonie Tiara, Donald John, & Victoria Rosanne
- **Rozabel C. Aguon & Michael Allen**
Children: Michael Steven
- **Antonio Jr. Dela Cruz & Francine Perez**
Children: Austin Michael & Maria Rose
- **Robert T. Dela Cruz & Rowena Cabrera**
Children: Emmanuel John, Alvin Jr. Zyra, Kiana Rose, Ryan Robert & Robert Jr.
- **Dannel A. Aguon**
- **Mariano Manuel Dela Cruz**
- **Tonyo G. & Francine R. Aguon**
Children: Arianne Jade
- **Randy T. Dela Cruz**
- **Ashia Santos**

Brothers & Sisters:

†Soledad Dela Cruz & †Henry C. Santos
Children: Gabriel & Grace (Tara, Savanah, Genieve, Gabriel Jr.), Josepha & †Warren (Warren John & Renae (Ryan), Wayne Jermaine, Wally Jean, Wells Joel & Warren Jr.) Josephine & Walter (Walter Ken & Bridgette (Harry, Wyatt, Walter, Ken Jr.), Henry John & Maytesha (Noah, Haveah, Hariah, Neil Bert & Tanya (Dylan, Jayden, Damien, Khloe), Carlina Rosita & Soledad Blandina) Gabriel & Grace (Tara Elizabeth, Genieve, Gabriel Jr. Jeremy) Henry Jr., Luisann & Michael (Michelle (Logan, Francisco Jr.), Melaine, Michael II, Mathew, Mark, Miranda, Mariah, Maya) Ramon Anthony & Nita (Nitasha, Rayann, Ryan, Regina), †Ray Anthony, †Joseph, †Elodia, †John

Carmen DLC. & Don A. Farrell

Children: Shari Farrel (Jude) Richard & Celina Farrell (Tiona & Rian, Anthony & Wendy, Richeena, Rikkie, & Richard Jr.), Darcy & Jackie (Jade & Isa)

Ramon M. & Dolores T. Dela Cruz

Children: Peter John, Valerie & Robert Jr. (Raina Roberta & Jeremiah, Robin Rae, Robert John II & Raiden Judd) Raymond Jr. & Mary Ann (Joe Raymond, Emiliana Dolores (Quiana Elani) Marc Anthony, Lou Kani, Sir Lashu, Anissa, Cody & Colin), Peter & Elaine (Pia Elayne, Peter II, Prestin, Peter, Pevika), Sheila & Henry Jr. (Hilary Rosario, Stephanie Frances, Henry Ray & Stefan Fritz), Marian & Alfonso Jr. (Ha'Ani, Dia Noah, Aiysha & Journey), Eugene & Jhen (Quinn), Mathew & Mary (Melton (Celeste Kaylani), Ezra & Katie Rosario), Eva & Anthony

Francisco M. Dela Cruz & Anita N. Antoigue

Children: Laura Lynn & Richard (Ryan Raymond & Rachel (4 kids), Brandon Jacob, Steven Jr., Amber Stoni, Eva Conner, Taylor Jessie, †April Wyne, Ko'Ani Mandy, & Tori Paige), Francisco Jr. (Kaisha Angeline, Francisco Jr., Jean Clyde, Linley Luke, Marley Manuel & Kai'ani Joanita), Manel Joseph & Laila (Irenia Maria, Anica Frances, Manel Joseph, Jesus Francisco, Aila Dina, Aniko Estella, Cassidy Irene), Luke Vincent (Anisia, Latisha, Frank Thomas & Ronnie Anthony) Antonette Agnes (Anton Christian) Jesse Moses & Morah (Moika Elani, Nevaeh, Zackery Frank, Jestin Francis) Doris Ann & Mike (Joey Franklin, Aubree Jo & Mika Vianit)

Cynthia DLC. & Marciano Takasi

Children: Brigitte & Mario (Alana Mareese, Mario Moises, Cindy Florene), Marciano & Claudia (Anthony Jermaine), Teruko & Christopher (Marciano Esteven, Thia Liana, Marissa, Christopher Jr.), Jessica & Edwin (Newton, Alexa, Thalia, Orion, Donny Ciaun, Daniel John, Calix Manuel)

Vicente M. & Carmelita Q. Dela Cruz

Children: Daniel Edward & Dedra (Darien, Damien, Dillen), Lucrecia (Joseph Raymond, Ali I kai Joseph) Carla Marie & Joaquin (Manuel Vincent, Malinao Tasi, Augustine Tudela, John Christian, Hanae Darence & Latrisha Ina), Lawrence & Rita (Shimiko & Skyler), Victoria Marie & Gregory (Raymond Jermaine)

Jose M. & Enriqueta S. Dela Cruz

Children: Marjorie & Richard (Kayori & Oen) Joanna & James, Soledad & Mario

Edward M. Dela Cruz & Ines S. Sandbergen

Children: Kevin Michael & Francine (Elizabeth Ann, Kian Mekel), Jason Jesus (Donovan, Darren), Edilena & Kelvin (Keane Beatrice & Eizaiah Joaquin), Edward II, Reggae, Benny Jr., Zoe Zinnia, Baltazar, Nicole

Lucia M. Dela Cruz / Therese F. Acosta-Leane Anne

He will also be missed by his numerous Aunts, Uncles, God-Children and Cousins.

Nightly rosary is being prayed at San Jose Church, Tinian at 8:00pm.

Funeral Services will be held on Wednesday, February 29, 2012. His remains will be taken from Tinian Health Center at 8:00am to San Jose Church, Tinian. Responso Service will be at 8:15am followed by Holy Rosary at 8:30am. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00am followed by Interment Service at Tinian Cemetery.

Please join us in prayers,
Thank you and Si Yu'us Ma'ase.

The Family

"Death leaves the heartache no one can heal. Love leaves a memory that no one can steal."

Life & Style

J.K. Rowling has a deal for a new novel for adults

NEW YORK (AP)—Adult fans of J.K. Rowling can rejoice: She has a new novel coming, for grownups.

The kids will have to wait and see.

The author of the mega-selling “Harry Potter” series has an agreement with Little, Brown in the United States and Britain to release her first adult novel, the publishers announced Thursday. The title, release date and details about the book, long rumored, were not announced. A neighbor of Rowling’s in Edinburgh, author Ian Rankin, tweeted Thursday that he thinks Rowling has written a mystery novel.

“Wouldn’t it be funny if J.K. Rowling’s first novel for adults turned out to be a crime story set in Edinburgh?” Rankin wrote. “My word yes.”

Her seventh and final Potter story came out in 2007, and in recent years the British author has said that she was working on an adult book and on a Potter encyclopedia. Rowling’s Potter books, which broke sales records around the world, were published by Bloomsbury in Britain and Scholastic in the

U.S. Rowling will now share the same publisher with Stephenie Meyer, whose “Twilight” series at least partially filled the gap opened by the conclusion of the Potter stories.

“Although I’ve enjoyed writing it every bit as much, my next book will be very different to the Harry Potter series, which has been published so brilliantly by Bloomsbury and my other publishers around the world,” Rowling, 46, said in a statement released by Little, Brown. “The freedom to explore new territory is a gift that Harry’s success has brought me, and with that new territory it seemed a logical progression to have a new publisher. I am delighted to have a second publishing home in Little, Brown, and a publishing team that will be a great partner in this new phase of my writing life.”

Rowling’s agent, Neil Blair, would not disclose financial details of the deal but said there had been no auction. He said Thursday that Rowling was remaining with Bloomsbury in Britain for the Harry Potter books.



Rowling

“As her new book is for a different audience, and marks a new literary direction for her, it made sense to separate the two and for her new book to be launched by a different publisher,” said Blair.

Blair became Rowling’s literary agent last year when she left the Christopher Little Literary Agency, where Blair had worked. Bloomsbury said its 15-year relationship with Rowling “remains stronger than ever”—and new editions of the seven novels were on the way. Some 450 million copies of the seven Potter stories are in print and the books have been translated into 74 languages. A billion-dollar movie franchise, starring Daniel Radcliffe as the young wizard, ended last year.

“We are pleased to announce that as part of our long term strategy for Harry Potter we intend to publish illustrated editions of all seven Harry Potter books in a rolling program from 2013 onwards in addition to our partnership on e-books with the Pottermore website,” the pub-

lisher said in a statement. In the U.S., Scholastic spokeswoman Kyle Good noted that Scholastic didn’t publish adult books.

“We will continue to publish her children’s books in the U.S.,” Good said Thursday.

Any Rowling book would seem a guaranteed million seller, although it’s questionable that her new novel will have the same mass appeal as Potter. Adult authors from E.B. White to Sherman Alexie have nicely managed the transition to writing for young people but, once a writer is defined as a children’s author, the transition can be tricky. Winnie the Pooh creator A.A. Milne, a successful playwright in his early years, once confessed that he was forced to say “goodbye to all that” after his beloved books about the bear and friends. Margaret Wise Brown, author of the classic “Goodnight Moon,” tried for years to write stories for The New Yorker.

Daniel Handler of “Lemony Snicket” fame and Ann Brashares, author of the “Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants” novels, are among the recent popular writers for children

who have had limited success as adult writers.

But Rowling does begin with one advantage: The Potter books had an enormous following among readers of all ages and she is widely credited with revealing to publishers that children’s books were no longer just for the young. Meyer’s vampire novels and Suzanne Collins’ “Hunger Games” trilogy also have caught on with both parents and kids. Meyer herself wrote an adult book, “The Host,” a best-seller in 2008.

“It would just be cool if my existing fans liked it,” Meyer told The Associated Press in 2008. “And I hope to get some new readers who would never go into the YA (Young Adult) shelves.”

Beth Puffer, director of the Manhattan-based children’s bookseller Bank Street Bookstore, said she’d have to see the novel before deciding where or whether to stock it.

“I assume if it’s written for adults, it’s not appropriate for children,” said Puffer, who added that she might stock the book in a section for ages 14 and up. “There are a lot of former children and young adults who

grew up with Harry Potter and they would likely be an audience for her new book. You also have all the adults who loved the Potter books.”

One of Rowling’s most passionate fans, Melissa Anelli, said she was beyond herself “with excitement.” Anelli, 32, runs a leading Potter/Rowling fan site, <http://www.the-leaky-cauldron.org>.

“J.K. Rowling is simply a great writer, and no matter what she applies her talents to, we will anticipate and enjoy it,” Anelli wrote in an email. “I’m also so intrigued by this process: What will happen as the world’s greatest children’s/YA author navigates the new publishing landscape and publishes for a new audience?”

Rowling’s novel will be available in both print and electronic formats. The author held out for years on allowing the Potter books to come out digitally, but announced in 2011 that Potter e-books would be sold through her own “Pottermore” website. The books were supposed to become available last fall, but have been delayed until sometime this year.

AP Interview: Oscar nominee Demian Bichir

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Demián Bichir learned an important lesson when he left his native Mexico to launch a U.S. acting career and ended up working in a Mexican restaurant in New York: How to live the invisible life of an illegal immigrant with dignity.

It’s a subtle quality he brings to his Oscar-nominated role of Los Angeles gardener Carlos Galindo in the movie “A Better Life.”

Like Galindo, Bichir came to the U.S. illegally. The U.S. amnesty program in 1986 put him on the road to a green card. The character he plays is not so lucky, trying to climb the rungs from day worker to owner of a gardening business while keeping his American-born teenage son from street gangs.

“It was important for me to relate to that time when I arrived in New York,” Bichir told The Associated Press. “Carlos Galindo’s dignity is similar to all those 11 million undocumented workers in U.S. They live their lives with ... that power and that passion, and they never give up. That’s me.”

The result brought the first best actor nomination for a Mexican native since Anthony Quinn 47 years ago. Bichir is up against big-name stars Brad Pitt, George Clooney and Gary Oldman, as well as Jean Dujardin in Sunday’s ceremony.

Until now, the 48-year-old Bichir has probably been Mexi-

co’s most successful low-profile Hollywood actor, having landed string of television and movie parts. American audiences may know him as Esteban Reyes, the raspy-voiced, corrupt Tijuana mayor and love interest of Mary-Louise Parker in the popular television series “Weeds.”

The Oscar nod has brought him fame, even if “A Better Life” did not do well at the box office. It now has been getting a bit of a second life in downloads and rentals since the nomination.

He said the distinction won’t change him as a person or an actor, though it may bring more opportunities to work with artists he admires. The tall, bearded Bichir, whose impishness comes through even sitting in a hard chair for a formal interview, said he’d rather not name names—then artfully dropped two big ones.

“If I say Woody Allen, and Jim Jarmusch hears I didn’t mention him, then he won’t call me,” he said. “And I want to work with him, too, right?”

Bichir grew up in a theater family that could be considered the Barrymores of Mexico,

on Oscar night.

He is the second of three brothers, all actors, who are so ubiquitous in Mexican theater and film that MTV once created a category for its Mexico awards, “Best Bichir in a Movie.”

Bichir currently stars in a Mexican theater version of “Swimming With Sharks” as the lead, nightmare movie mogul Buddy Ackerman. The play is directed by his younger brother, Bruno. All three (the third brother is Odiseo) will be the voices of three inmate pigs in the upcoming animated Mexican film.

Before the brothers’ fame, they were part of a middle class family headed by theater director Alejandro Bichir and actress Maricruz Najera.

Bichir first dreamed of being a professional soccer player. His mother recently told the Mexican newspaper El Universal that he was always tearing through the knees of his pants playing in the streets of Tlatelolco, a Mexico City neighborhood famous both as an ancient Aztec market and the scene of a 1968 student massacre.

Instead, he started acting, landing a role in the Mexican soap opera “Rina” at age 14.

Bichir headed to New York at age 21 or 22, he said, to ex-



Bichir

pand his experience as an actor. He ended up busing tables at the Rosa Mexicana, the hardest work he said he has ever done. It was there he learned to make guacamole, something he said his mother did growing up.

“She made delicious guacamole and I never gave it much thought,” he said.

The key to his recipe is chopping the avocado. No smashing.

After a short time he moved to Los Angeles, without success, and returned to Mexico, where he starred in films such as “Hasta Morir” (Until Death), which won him an Ariel award, the Mexican equivalent of an Oscar, and the comedy hit “Sexo, Pudor y Lagrimas,” (Sex, Shame and Tears). Among dozens of roles, he played Miguel Hidalgo, the father of Mexican independence, in “Hidalgo: The Story Never Told,” released during Mexico’s 2010 bicentennial.

His Hollywood roles started with the television movie “The Time of Butterflies” with Mexican actress Salma Hayek in 2001 and include playing Cuban revolutionary Fidel Castro in Steven Soderbergh’s “Che” in 2008, in addition to the recurring role on “Weeds.”

Bichir has said in previous interviews that he thought he was reading for director Chris Weitz’s “Twilight” vampire series when Weitz proposed a project about a gardener.

Bichir’s killer guacamole

MEXICO CITY (AP)—One of Mexican actor Demian Bichir’s best performances during an interview with The Associated Press was describing how he makes guacamole, something he learned while working as a busboy at the Rosa Mexicana restaurant in New York in 1985.

His gesture the chopping and mixing, saying preparation requires a molcajete, a Mexican mortar and pestle made from volcanic rock.

In that method, the onion, cilantro, chilies are ground together in the mortar until they coat the walls of the bowl. The avocado then is mixed in, followed by more chopped onion and cilantro, then the tomato and hot sauce.

Since most American kitchens don’t have a molcajete, we’ve adapted his recipe to use a knife.

Whichever method you use, you can moderate the heat of the guacamole two ways. First, limit the amount of hot sauce you add. Second, slice open and discard the inner ribs and seeds from the serrano chilies. These parts contain most of the heat.

Note that this recipe contains little acid, which preserves the green color of the avocados in most guacamole recipes. If you make this ahead of time or don’t plan to consume it immediately, consider stirring

in 2 tablespoons of lime juice. Otherwise, the guacamole will turn brown (but is fine to eat).

Start to finish: 10 minutes

Servings: 8

1 small yellow or white onion, finely diced

Chopped fresh cilantro, to taste

Serrano chilies, to taste

4 avocados, pitted and cut into cubes

1 to 2 medium tomatoes, chopped

Hot sauce, to taste

Salt

On a cutting board, mound together three-quarters of the diced onion and a bit each of the cilantro and chilies. Start with about 3 tablespoons chopped cilantro and 1 chili. You can add more later. Use a large knife to repeatedly chop the mixture further. Aim to reduce the mixture to as close to a pulp as possible.

Turn the knife on its side and, applying firm pressure to the side of the blade, use it to smash the ingredients. Transfer the mixture to a medium bowl.

Gently mix the avocado into the onion mixture. Add the remaining diced onion, another tablespoon or 2 of cilantro and the chopped tomatoes. Stir gently, then taste and season with salt. Add hot sauce, as well as additional finely chopped chilies, to adjust the heat as desired.

Jagger sizes up Obama's singing as 'courageous'

WASHINGTON (AP)—The reviews are in, and Mick Jagger sizes up President Barack Obama's singing of the blues this week as nothing short of "courageous."

The Rolling Stones frontman said Thursday the president did "very well" when bluesman Buddy Guy successfully prodded him to join in on a few lines of "Sweet Home Chicago," the blues anthem of the president's home town, during an East Room

concert earlier in the week.

"I thought he was courageous, because there was some element of reluctance," Jagger said, adding that "it was a hard moment for the president to get out of."

Jagger, in a phone interview with the AP, also said he was pleased to see that first lady Michelle Obama was wearing a dress that night designed by L'Wren Scott, his longtime girlfriend, who had a front-row seat for the concert.

Jagger, 68, said he's never been invited to play at the White House before—or for any head of state—and he rated it a "surreal gig experience."

"I loved it," he said. "It was really unusual, surreal, and strange, but very enjoyable. ... I went out there and I tried to put out my best."

What's next for Jagger? He said he's on a minivacation on the East Coast with his kids, and they were heading out the

door to play soccer.

But will the Stones get together this year for a 50th anniversary tour?

"I hope we certainly do something," he said. "It would be very appropriate, I think, and I look forward to doing something. But nothing is yet booked."

Jagger and other blues greats played the East Room on Tuesday as part of an "In Performance at the White House" concert that will air Monday on PBS.

'Idol' unveils Top 24 with a twist

LOS ANGELES (AP)—It's good news for 25—not just 24—singers on "American Idol."

After the "Hollywood Week" and Las Vegas performance rounds, "Idol" judges Randy Jackson, Jennifer Lopez and Steven Tyler narrowed the field from 42 contestants to 24 semifinalists on Wednesday's installment of the Fox singing competition, but they apparently cut too many.

At the end of the episode, "Idol" host Ryan Seacrest revealed in a voiceover that "the judges felt compelled to reinstate another guy." He teased that either Jermaine Jones, Johnny Keyser, Richie Law or David Leathers Jr. would be among the male semifinalists next week.

"You did a great job, and you got so far," Lopez told a weeping Jones after he was dismissed on a stage surrounded by bubbling water at the Wynn Las Vegas resort.

The semifinalists unveiled Wednesday were: Deandre Brackensick, Adam Brock, Hollie Cavanaugh, Hallie Day, Eben Franckewitz, Skylar Laine, Chase Likens, Shannon Magrane, Aaron Marcellus and Jeremy Rosado.

The semifinalists announced Tuesday were: Baylie Brown, Colton Dixon, Creighton Fraker, Reed Grimm, Heejun Han, Jen Hirsh, Haley Johnsen, Joshua Ledet, Phillip Phillips, Jessica Sanchez, Chelsea Sorrell, Elise Testone, Erika Van Pelt and Brielle Von Hugel.

The top 13 men will perform live next Tuesday, with the top 12 women taking the stage live Wednesday. Viewer votes will determine which singers will be eliminated Thursday.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Santana to headline 2 years at Vegas' Mandalay Bay

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Guitar legend Carlos Santana plans a two-year headlining gig at the House of Blues at Mandalay Bay in Las Vegas, switching venues from his previous home at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino. Representatives for the House of Blues say Santana will have a run of shows in May and June, then return in September with the residency running through 2013. Tickets go on sale March 3. Santana says he's happy to call the venue home, and plans to honor the diversity and culture that the House

Claim surfaces of Anne Frank baptism by Mormons

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—A new claim has surfaced that the Mormon church has posthumously baptized a Holocaust victim, this time Anne Frank.

The allegations come just a week after The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints apologized when it was brought to light that the parents of Holocaust survivor and Jewish rights advocate Simon Wiesenthal were posthumously baptized by church members at temples in Arizona and Utah in late January.

Researcher Helen Radkey, a former Mormon who revealed the Wiesenthal baptisms, said this week she found Frank's name in proxy baptism records dated Feb. 18, showing the ritual was performed in the Santo Domingo Temple in the Dominican Republic.

The Mormon church almost immediately issued a statement, though it didn't mention Frank by name.

"The Church keeps its word and is absolutely firm in its commitment to not accept the names of Holocaust victims for proxy baptism," the Salt Lake City-based church said. "It is distress-



This is an undated file photo of Anne Frank, the young Jewish girl who, with her family, hid from the Nazis in Amsterdam, Netherlands, during World War II.

ing when an individual willfully violates the Church's policy and something that should be understood to be an offering based on love and respect becomes a source of contention."

Church officials did not return telephone calls and emails from The Associated Press on Thursday. A spokeswoman for the Anne Frank House museum in Amsterdam declined comment.

Larry Bair, the president of the Mormon temple of Santo Domingo, said Thursday he had

looked into the reports but was unable to verify that Frank had been baptized.

If it did occur, Bair told the AP, "it was a mistake."

Frank was a Jewish teenager forced into hiding in Amsterdam during the Holocaust and killed in a concentration camp. Her diary was published in 1947.

Mormons believe the baptism ritual allows deceased people a way to the afterlife but it offends members of many other religions.

Jews are particularly offended by an attempt to alter the religion of Holocaust victims, and the baptism of Holocaust survivors was supposed to have been barred by a 1995 agreement.

The church said it takes "a good deal of deception and manipulation to get an improper submission through the safeguards we have put in place."

"While no system is foolproof in preventing the handful of individuals who are determined to falsify submissions, we are committed to taking action against individual abusers by suspending the submitter's access privileges," the church said in its statement.

Miami Beach police check Brown phone theft claim

According to the report, Spann claims Brown grabbed her phone and said "... you ain't going to put that on no website," and drove off.

Authorities said no charges have been filed. The report listed the potential crime as "robbery by sudden snatching," which is a felony.

"My prosecutors are currently speaking with the witnesses and reviewing all of the materials supplied by Miami Beach police," said Katherine Fernandez Rundle, Miami-Dade County's chief prosecutor. "Only after

these reviews have been completed would any type of action be considered or taken."

Brown's attorney and a spokeswoman did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Any charges could cause legal problems for Brown, who remains on supervised probation for beating then-girlfriend, singer Rihanna, in 2009. He has been on a comeback of late, winning a Grammy award and performing on the high-rated awards program—as did Rihanna.

Miami Beach police check Brown phone theft claim

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. (AP)—Police are investigating a woman's claim that singer Chris Brown stole her iPhone outside a South Beach nightclub when she tried to take a picture of him.

A police incident report released Thursday says Christal Shanae Spann, 24, and her friends spotted Brown and rapper Tyga leaving the Cameo club early Sunday. Spann told police she saw Brown get into a black Bentley, and she used her phone to take a picture of him sitting in the car.

of Blues promotes as a company. Part of each ticket sale will go to Santana's foundation, which supports children's art, education and health.

'Jeopardy!' headed to Washington for week of shows

NEW YORK (AP)—"Jeopardy!" is invading the Beltway to put to the test some of Washington's most influential figures. The syndicated game show announced Thursday that it will enlist 15 prominent contestants for "Power Players Week." The show's producers say participants will include political figures, authors,

journalists and newsmakers. The players will be named a few days before the taping, scheduled to take place on April 21 at DAR Constitution Hall in front of a live audience. Each contestant will be playing for charity, with the winner each day getting a \$50,000 jackpot. The programs will air May 14-18. "Jeopardy!," which has been on the air for 28 years, held similar "Power Players" events in 1997 and 2004.

Firth, Portman, Bale, Leo to present at Oscars

LOS ANGELES (AP)—All four acting winners from last year's Academy Awards are returning to

this weekend's Oscars as presenters. Organizers say Colin Firth, Natalie Portman, Christian Bale and Melissa Leo will be there to hand out awards Sunday. Last year's lead-acting prizes went to Firth for "The King's Speech" and Portman for "Black Swan." Bale and Leo won the supporting honors for "The Fighter." Among this season's contenders are lead performers George Clooney for "The Descendants," Viola Davis for "The Help," Meryl Streep for "The Iron Lady" and Jean Dujardin for "The Artist." The supporting favorites are Octavia Spencer for "The Help" and Christopher Plummer for "Beginners."

Take simple steps to avoid delays at doctor's office

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I have worked in a medical clinic for 35 years and hear a lot of complaints about the wait for doctor appointments. May I explain some of the reasons for it?

Sometimes the doctor arrives late, but other factors can cause delays:

1. If you need to be seen, call first to get an appointment time. Most offices leave open spots to accommodate urgent-care matters. If you just walk in, we must work you in with patients who already have appointments, which pushes the doctor behind.

2. Do NOT come an hour early and announce in front of the entire waiting room that you must be somewhere and expect to get worked in before your scheduled time. Reschedule instead.

3. Always bring your insurance cards with you. Do not tell us to call another doctor's office to get the information.

4. Don't walk in with forms you need filled out and signed by the doctor and expect someone to take care of it immediately. It requires your chart to be pulled, a nurse to fill out the information and the doctor to look over the form and sign. Instead, leave the form. We'll mail it or call you to pick it up.

5. Don't expect to call the office and speak with the doctor in the middle of a clinic day. A nurse can usually handle the question. If not, she'll have the doctor call you back after seeing the scheduled patients.

GENTLE REMINDER IN SIOUX FALLS, S.D.

DEAR GENTLE: Thank you for the reminders, which may help readers avoid some of the frustrations they encounter when going for a medical appointment. They are well worth the space in my column.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have become fond of a delightful elderly couple, "Frank" and "Annie." We bought the home across the street from them 10 years ago. They have four children, two of whom live nearby.

Two years ago, Frank was diagnosed with dementia. They are adamant about staying in the house they've owned since they were newlyweds. This means more of the burden of caring for the house and finances now falls to Annie, who has health problems of her own.

We help out whenever we can, because I know money is tight for them. When their lawnmower broke, we bought them a new one, and with the help of another neighbor, we take care of general yardwork and house issues.

I am growing increasingly concerned about the state of their finances, and bewildered that their children never seem to help. They interact with their parents at birthdays and on holidays. I don't know the children well, but is there a way to help them understand that their parents may not be volunteering all their troubles?

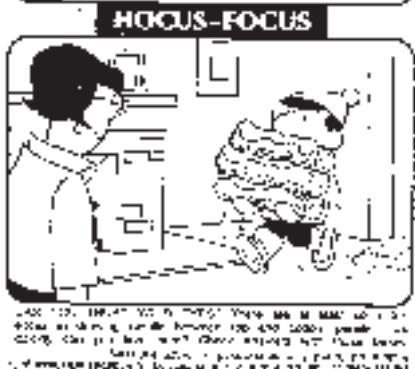
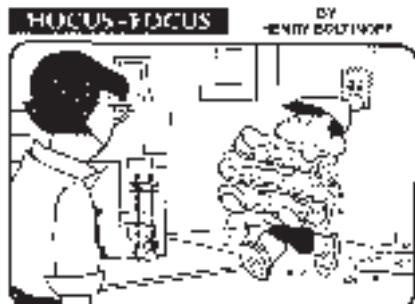
Frank and Annie are proud of what they've accomplished, but now they need a little extra support. They never ask for help, but gratefully accept it if it's offered. Would I be out of line to communicate with our neighbors' family?

LOVE THY NEIGHBOR

DEAR LOVE THY NEIGHBOR: Out of line? Not at all. The "children" should be told about your concerns, and also the various things you and the other neighbors have been doing to help their parents. Sometimes the children of aging parents don't recognize the subtle changes that take place when a loved one has dementia. Bring it out in the open, and you'll be doing all of them a favor.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

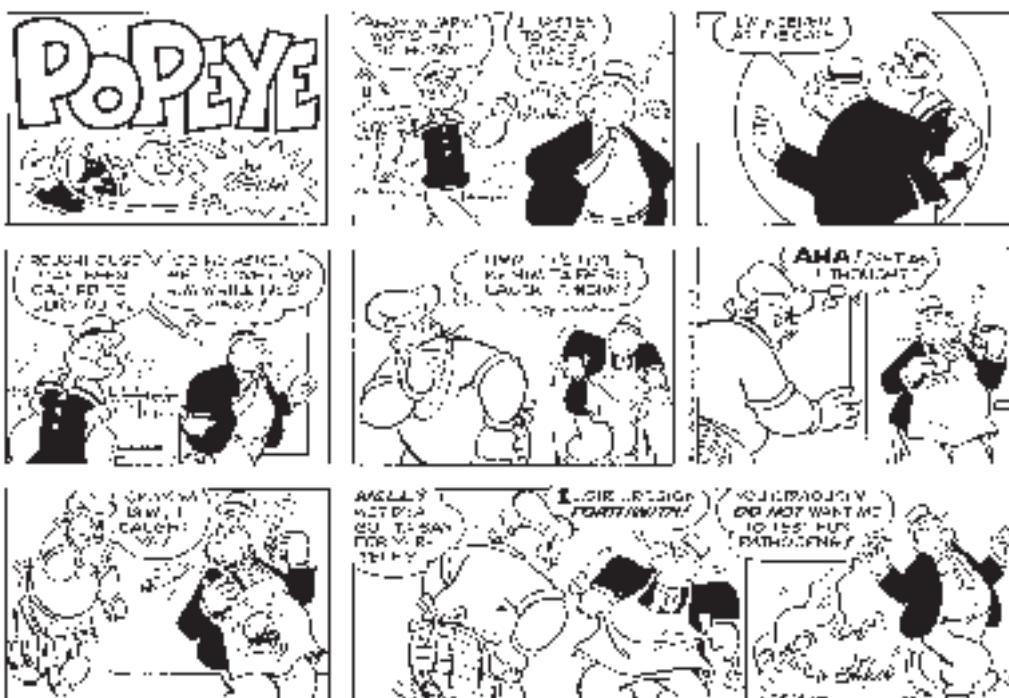


Wishing Well®

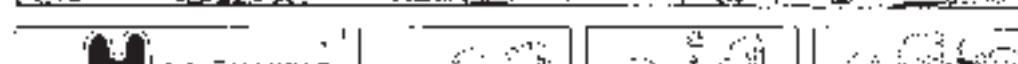
5	4	2	0	2	5	3	4	5	2	7	5	6
6	4	3	1	1	4	1	0	3	2	7	3	1
8	4	1	2	0	5	1	2	3	2	7	4	
F	1	S	A	E	P	D	E	H	S	G	E	E
6	5	2	7	3	9	7	6	5	2	3	7	5
X	R	O	C	A	G	R	P	R	I	I	F	D
8	3	6	0	8	1	4	3	5	2	7	2	
R	P	T	O	E	U	T	O	O	R	F	A	S
3	2	7	4	6	2	9	8	4	3	2	5	7
N	S	D	H	N	G	A	M	F	F	M		
8	3	2	0	7	3	7	8	7	3	6	3	6
T	T	T	S	I	A	R	E	C	N	E	C	N
8	5	7	8	5	8	2	8	3	8	3	E	8
R	C	B	O	F	M	O	A	H	N	A	C	F

HERE IS A FUNNY LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers. Left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

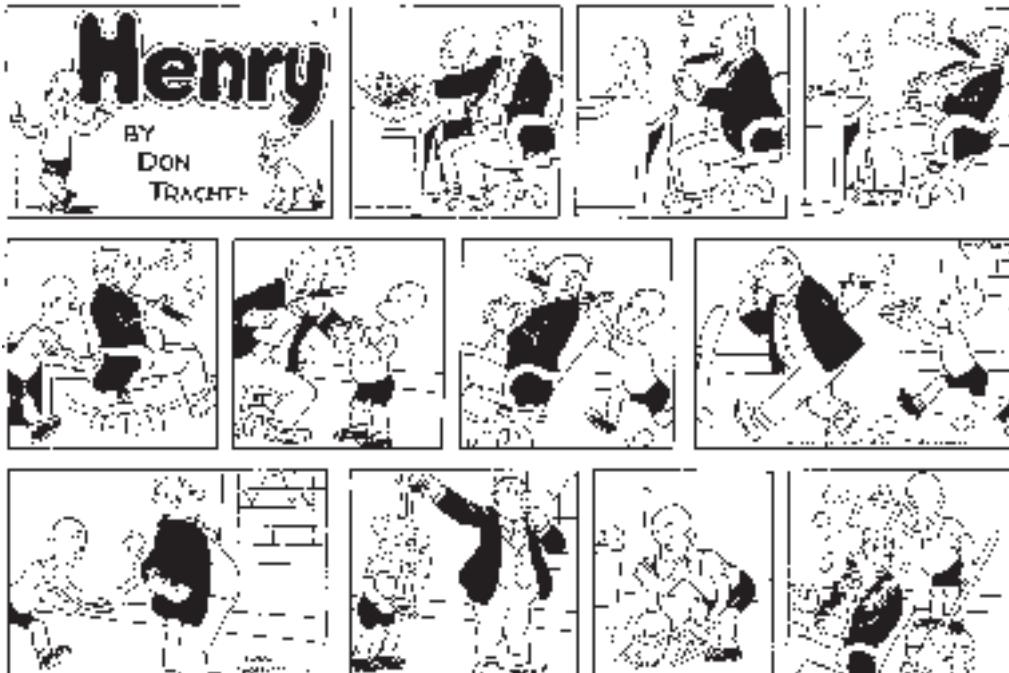
— 2012 King Features Synd. Inc. All rights reserved.



They'll Do It Every Time



by Al Scaduto



© 2012 King Features Synd. Inc. All rights reserved.



© 2012 King Features Synd. Inc. All rights reserved.

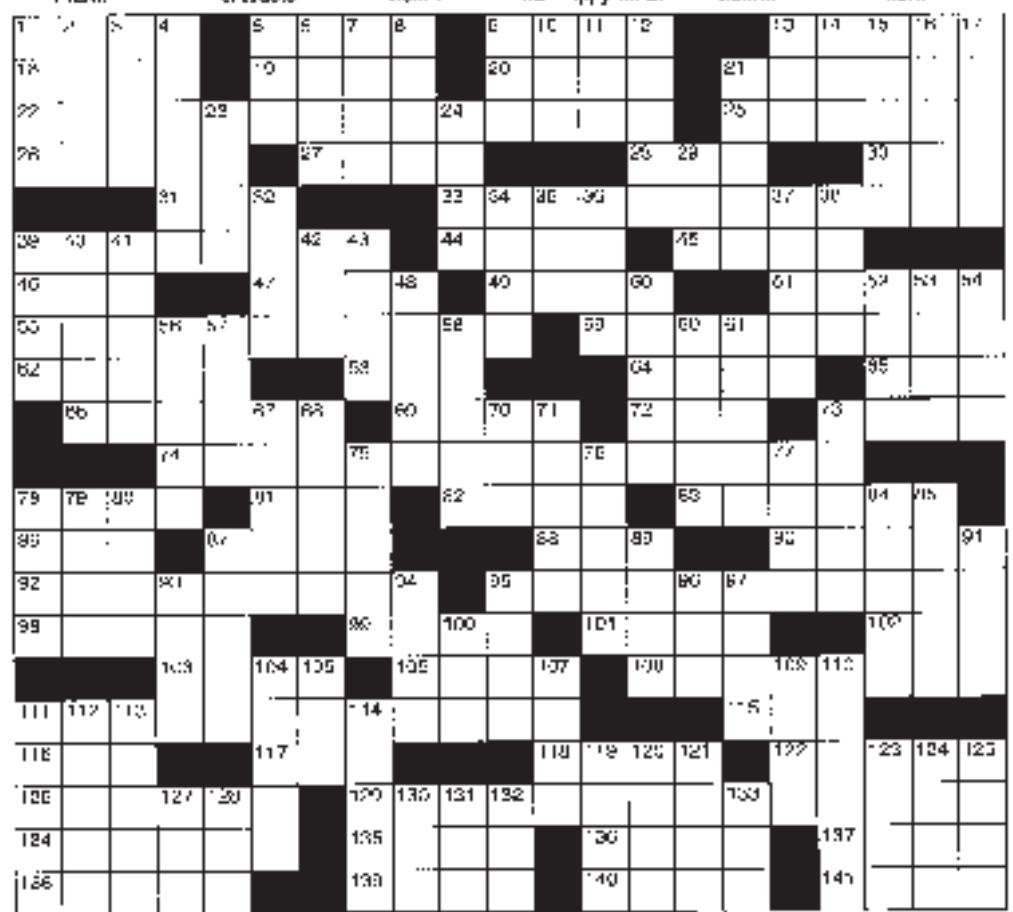
HOLLYWOOD HEADLINE Super Crossword

ACROSS

1 Hitler
 5 Kurland
 6 Nathan
 9 Lucas
 10 character
 13 Gulliver one
 18 Retic. army
 19 Cet. in
 20 Imported
 21 Extrajudicial
 22 abd.
 23 DIRECTOR
 24 PICKER
 25 KAFKAN
 26 TO PLAY
 27 LINCOLN
 28 Author I-9
 29 Gui.
 30 Prepare to
 31 apostate
 32 Veli Alisa
 33 Hur. org?
 34 ABA
 35 number
 36 Fix a right
 37 WHITNEY
 38 PLUNGE!
 39 More
 40 meager
 41 Graf
 45 hazard
 46 Film, for
 47 Castillo
 48 Curran
 51 Arm bones
 55 CARNEY
 56 IN NEW
 57 FILM!

58 Vaudeville
 59 stripe
 60 Rislahn
 61 Unicity
 62 'Ca
 63 character
 64 'Café
 65 JFK Library
 66 Deafheaven
 67 symphony
 68 Vivaldy
 69 ideal
 70 Pic. gen.
 71 Lille
 72 he part?
 73 SANDLER
 74 GOES ON
 75 TOUR!
 76 Flock
 77 parlor
 78 Sluggers
 79 site
 80 Alvinol
 81 St. Ky
 82 Meas.
 83 cracker
 84 — & Song
 85 Go
 86 TV's line
 87 — Peafowl
 88 Prelim.
 89 Plumbing
 90 hazard
 91 Film, for
 92 Castillan
 93 Curran
 94 — King
 95 Hot cell
 96 "Holy cow"
 97 "Dewy" name
 98 character

106 Chaplin
 107 Agilex
 108 PLANS
 109 NUPTIALS!
 110 Dancer?
 111 Gatsby
 112 "Cats
 113 "Cats
 114 "Cats
 115 "Cats
 116 "Cats
 117 "Cats
 118 "Cats
 119 "Cats
 120 "Cats
 121 "Cats
 122 "Cats
 123 "Cats
 124 "Cats
 125 "Cats
 126 "Cats
 127 "Cats
 128 "Cats
 129 "Cats
 130 "Cats
 131 "Cats
 132 "Cats
 133 "Cats



© 2012 King Features Synd. Inc. All rights reserved.

Trivia test by Bill Rodriguez

1. MEASUREMENTS: How often would a tricennial celebration occur?
 2. MOVIES: What movie is considered to be the first feature-length talking picture ever made?
 3. HISTORY: In 1973, who became the second special prose-

4. MYTHOLOGY: What area of influence is the Norse god Bragi associated with?
 5. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What country once had emperors called "kaisers"?

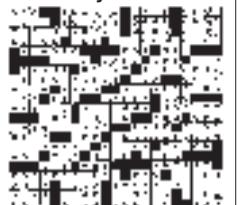
6. MUSIC: In musical terms, what is an opus?
 7. THEATER: Who wrote the play "The Odd Couple"?

8. GEOGRAPHY: What river runs through Baghdad?

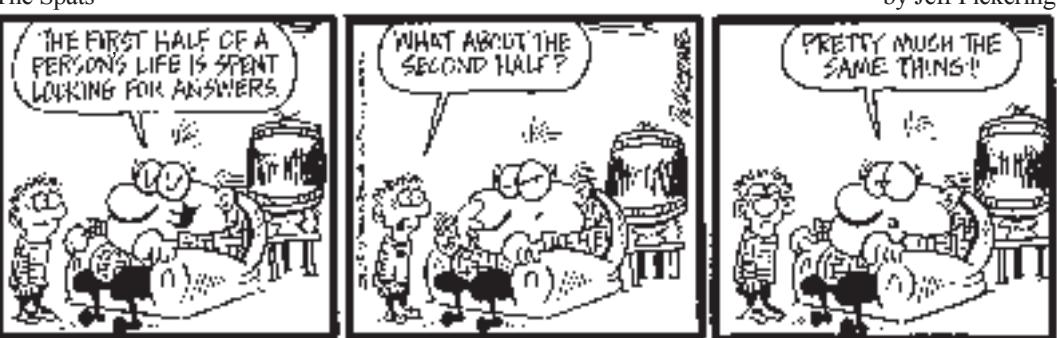
9. GAMES: How often is soccer's World Cup held?

10. POETRY: What poet wrote the lines, "Two roads diverged in a wood, and I ... / I took the one less traveled by"?

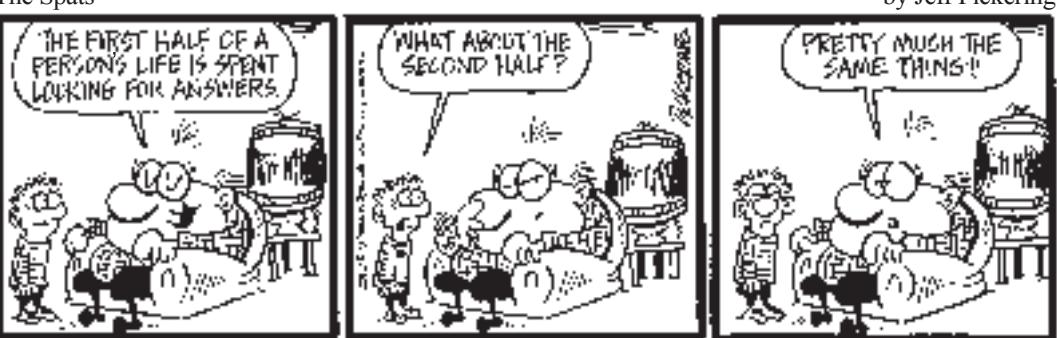
Saturday's Answers



The Spats



by Jeff Pickering



© 2012 King Features Synd. Inc. All rights reserved.

CLASSIFIED ADS



CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS

	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$27
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$39
• 3-Liner with picture	\$24	\$42
• 5-Liner with picture	\$36	\$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:

- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

LOOKING TO BUY
TOYOTA TACOMA 4X4 TRUCK
1999 OR 2000 MODELS.
CALL 671-686-8669

WHATZIT Solution: Aegean Sea

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

2 Bedroom Apartment for Rent. For \$200.00/month. Koblerville, please call 288-0728.

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Fina Sisu Apt., 1-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated bldg., 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nighttime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

CLICK IT OR TICKET DAY & NIGHT

Subscribe to the CNMI's
First Daily Newspaper



Call 235-NEWS

Heat contain Lin, roll to 8th straight win, 102-88



MIAMI (AP)—Jeremy Lin was no match for the Miami Heat.

Forcing Lin into easily the worst game of his remarkable run as New York's starting point guard by running streams of defenders at him, Miami topped the Knicks 102-88 on Thursday night—the eighth straight win for the NBA-leading Heat, all by at least 12 points.

Chris Bosh scored 25 points, Dwyane Wade added 22 and LeBron James finished with 20 points, nine rebounds and eight assists for Miami, which will go into the All-Star break with the NBA's best record (27-7).

Lin's final line: 1 for 11 from the field, eight points, three assists—a long way from the 23.9 points and 9.2 assists he had been averaging over his first 11 games in the Knicks' rotation, when he breathed immeasurable life into a team that was floundering.

"First of all, he deserves all of the credit he's been given," Wade said. "We knew it was going to be a tough task guarding him in this high pick and roll. Our point guards did a great job. He's a good player, but we put a lot of pressure on him and it was a success."

On Thursday, Lin simply wasn't the same player, turning the ball over eight times and saying afterward that the Heat defense made it difficult even to dribble. His last miss came with 6 seconds left, the outcome already decided, and he simply walked quietly off the court into the locker room.

"A learning experience," Lin said. "A tough one."

But for a while, the game lived up to the hype.

Spike Lee, Floyd Mayweather and Chad Ochocinco all sat within seven seats of each other on one sideline, Mike Stanton and Logan Morrison of the Miami Marlins were on another sideline, and members of the New York Mets' front office reportedly jumped aboard a helicopter for the quick trip from the team's spring-training home in Port St. Lucie down to Miami.

Even the First Fan took note of the hubbub surrounding the game.

"In another life, I would be staying for the Knicks-Heat game tonight, then going up

to Orlando for NBA All-Star weekend," President Barack Obama told cheering students at the University of Miami earlier in the day. "But these days, I've got a few other things on my plate. Just a few."

But when Air Force One was headed to Orlando for a Thursday night fundraiser, yes, there were televisions tuned to Heat-Knicks on board.

Carmelo Anthony led the Knicks with 19 points, with J.R. Smith scoring 14 for New York off the bench.

"I'm sure they were all geeked up for him," Knicks coach Mike D'Antoni said of the Heat defense on Lin. "And they took the challenge and they did a great job. It's hard to be Peter Pan every day."

James became the NBA's first player since 2008 to finish with at least 20 points, nine rebounds, eight assists, five steals and two blocks. The last one to do that? James himself.

"This has been about a three-week push for us and it's a good way to end before the break," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "I think everyone in that locker room needs a handful of days. We've been really focused ... to make this push. We played a team that with more time they're going to improve and become a very dangerous team. They already are right now."

If proof was needed that the Heat wanted to make a point against Lin, there was some clear evidence.

Exhibit A: Mario Chalmers stole the ball from Lin and went in for a two-handed dunk in the early minutes. Exhibit B: Norris Cole, Chalmers' backup at point guard, did the same thing in the second quarter.

Combined dunks this season for Chalmers and Cole entering Thursday? Zero.

Those strip-and-scores were part of a six-turnover first half from Lin, matching his third-highest total in any half this season. Amare Stoudemire also had six turnovers in the first 24 minutes, the Knicks were outscored 30-16 in the paint, 12-1 on fast breaks and 12-3 off turnovers.

Nonetheless, Miami's lead was only 51-47 at the break.

For all the fire the Heat were playing with, the Knicks were up to the task. Steve Novak came off the bench to make



New York Knicks point guard Jeremy Lin (17) watches game action during the first half of an NBA basketball game against the Miami Heat, Thursday, Feb. 23, 2012 in Miami.

all three of his shots—all from 3-point range—and New York was right there even though Lin had two assists in the first 1:26 of the game and no others in the final 22:34 of the half.

"The ultimate test," is how D'Antoni described the Heat before the game.

The Heat offered some ultimate moments, too.

James lowered a shoulder into Lin on one of Miami's first fast breaks of the night, sending the guard back about 10 feet. In the second quarter, Wade pounced on a miss by James for a two-handed put-back slam, a play quickly followed by a James dunk—courtesy of a Lin turnover. On the next Heat possession, Stoudemire accepted a pass from Lin, not seeing Wade get behind him for an easy strip that led to a layup and 43-40 Miami lead.

"It's one game," D'Antoni said. "And we're not there yet. They're there. They're the team right now to beat for everybody."

Back and forth they went, just as everyone wanted.

"It's always big when the Knicks come in," Bosh said. "They have that New York-Miami thing. The crowd enjoyed it. And we enjoyed it."

It was classic Knicks-Heat stuff, just like those playoff battles in the late 1990s and early 2000s. Bodies were flying, tempers were flaring. Tyson Chandler and D'Antoni picked up technicals arguing the same play in the first quarter ... and more than a few Knicks fans who paid big money for tickets—the average price for the game on the resale markets was over \$700, by one estimate—made their presence known loudly and often.

"It's one game," D'Antoni said. "And we're not there yet. They're there. They're the team right now to beat for everybody."

They're playing better than everybody. And we're trying to get our team together."

He's right. They're not there yet.

Lin never got rolling, and the Knicks were eventually worn down. James, Wade and Bosh combined for 25 of Miami's 29 points in the third quarter, James hitting a jumper with less than a second left to push the Heat edge to 80-66.

Lin checked back in with 7:06 to play, the Heat lead then at 90-76. James made a jumper about a half-minute later, giving Miami its biggest lead to that point at 16. Two possessions later, Lin had a short jumper in the lane that bounced on the rim three times, wouldn't fall and left the phenomenon going back up the court shaking his head ever so slightly.

"I'm not going to hang my

head or anything like that," Lin said. "I know I went out there and I played hard. Can't win 'em all. Can't have a great game every game. But at the same time, I need to understand, 'OK, what'd I do wrong? How can I improve?' I think that's going to be exciting."

Thunder 100, Lakers 85

In Oklahoma City, Kevin Durant scored 33 points to lead the Thunder to a win over the Los Angeles Lakers and a share of the NBA lead heading into the All-Star break.

Russell Westbrook added 19 for the Thunder, who won their 12th straight home game and denied Los Angeles the chance to head into the midseason break with back-to-back statement wins on the road. The Lakers had won at defending NBA champion Dallas a night earlier and were trying to follow it by knocking off the other half of last year's West finals.

Kobe Bryant scored 24 points but went 7 for 24 from the field for Los Angeles.

Oklahoma City and Miami both have NBA-leading 27-7 records at the break.

Hawks 83, Magic 78

In Atlanta, Josh Smith scored 22 points and pulled down 12 rebounds to help Atlanta snap a three-game skid with a win over Orlando.

Jannero Pargo added 15 points for the Hawks, who led by only a point with 4:42 left but finished the stronger.

J.J. Redick finished with 13 points for the Magic, who had won six of seven going in.

Spurs 114, Nuggets 99

In Denver, DeJuan Blair tied a career high with 28 points and grabbed 12 rebounds, helping San Antonio beat Denver to wrap up a nine-game road swing.

Buoyed by a 19-1 run midway through the first quarter, the Spurs jumped out to a big lead and then held on at the end. They've won 12 of their past 13 heading into the All-Star break and lead the Southwest Division by three games over defending champion Dallas.

All five starters for the Spurs scored in double figures. Tony Parker had 16 points and 12 assists.

Corey Brewer scored 23 points for the Nuggets.

long way since September."

Polian could not say whether the damaged nerve that was causing weakness in Manning's throwing arm had completely regenerated, though, and that's what Grigson, team owner Jim Irsay and coach Chuck Pagano want to know.

If Manning returns to full strength, he could continue to be one of the league's top players.

But that's the \$28 million question, and Grigson and Pagano said they haven't even seen Manning throw yet.

Colts GM isn't ready to decide on Manning, Luck

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Even the Indianapolis Colts don't have all the answers on Peyton Manning. Or Andrew Luck, for that matter.

New general manager Ryan Grigson said the Colts have not decided whether to release the four-time league MVP, whether to renegotiate with him or whether to take Luck with the No. 1 overall pick in April's draft.

Instead, things in Indianapolis are about as uncertain as the status of Manning's right arm.

"Peyton has to be healthy, it has to be something that's spoken on, investigated and talked about," Grigson said Thursday at the scouting combine. "But right now, like I said, it's a process that we're waiting for things to happen and doing the things that we have control of. Things that we don't have con-

trol of, we just have no choice but to be patient and (perhaps) all you will be the same."

The constant questions have complicated Indy's decisions.

First, the Colts must determine whether Manning's arm is strong enough to keep playing.

Doctors cleared Manning to begin practice in early December, and there's been rampant speculation about Manning's recovery since then. Recent re-

ports have indicated Manning is not throwing with NFL velocity and some doubt whether he'll ever be the same quarterback.

Running back Joseph Addai, who caught passes from Manning in late December, and former team vice chairman Bill Polian, who watched the same workout, have both said Manning threw with good velocity from 25 to 30 yards then, just 4 1/2 months after having two vertebrae fused. A full recovery can take nine to 12 months, well beyond the March 8 due

date for the \$28 million bonus owed to Manning.

If the Colts don't pay up, the longtime face of the franchise could become a free agent.

Polian didn't change his story Thursday.

"He was able to stand at the left hash mark and throw it to the right sideline, but he didn't get much beyond 25 to 28 yards," he said. "He was absolutely on the money and threw with good velocity. I was impressed with that workout and he clearly had come a

Ryan Braun's 50-game suspension overturned

NEW YORK (AP)—National League MVP Ryan Braun's 50-game suspension was overturned Thursday by baseball arbitrator Shyam Das, the first time a baseball player successfully challenged a drug-related penalty in a grievance.

The decision was announced Thursday by the Major League Baseball Players Association, one day before the 28-year-old outfielder was due to report to spring training with the Milwaukee Brewers.

Braun's urine tested positive in October for elevated testosterone, and ESPN revealed the positive test in December.

Braun has insisted that he did not violate baseball's drug agreement.

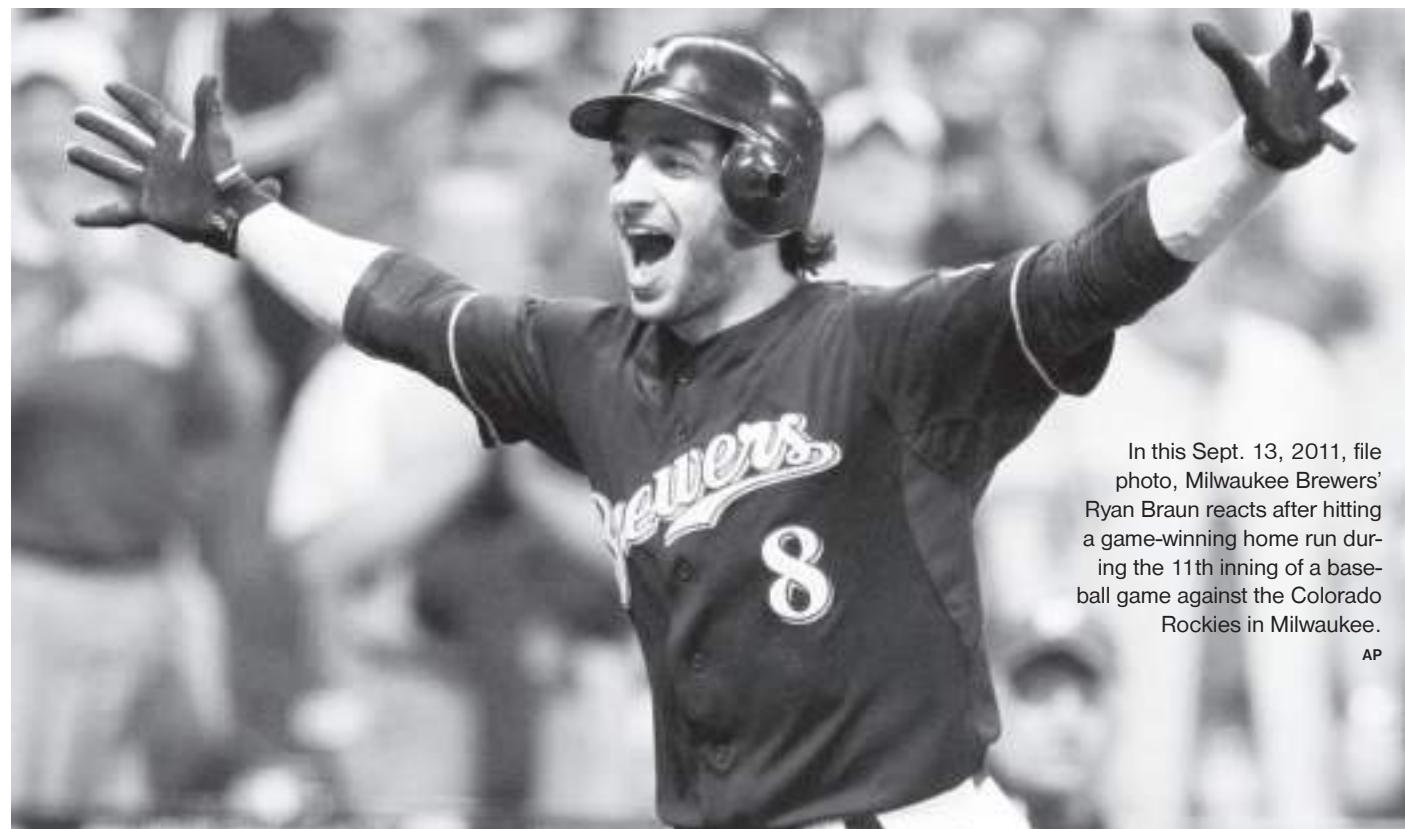
"I am very pleased and relieved by today's decision," he said in a statement. "It is the first step in restoring my good name and reputation. We were able to get through this because I am innocent and the truth is on our side."

MLB executive vice president Rob Manfred said management "vehemently disagrees" with Das' decision.

Travis Tygart, chief executive officer of the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency, called the decision "a real gut-kick to clean athletes."

During the hearing, Braun's side challenged the chain of custody from the time the urine sample was collected by Comprehensive Drug Testing Inc. to when it was sent, nearly 48 hours later, to a World Anti-Doping Agency-certified laboratory in Montreal, two people familiar with the case said. They spoke on condition of anonymity because what took place in the hearing is supposed to be confidential.

The sample was collected on



In this Sept. 13, 2011, file photo, Milwaukee Brewers' Ryan Braun reacts after hitting a game-winning home run during the 11th inning of a baseball game against the Colorado Rockies in Milwaukee.

AP

Oct. 1, a Saturday and the day the Brewers opened the NL playoffs. The collector did not

send the sample to the laboratory until Monday, thinking it would be more secure at home than at a Federal Express office during the weekend.

Baseball's drug agreement states that "absent unusual circumstances, the specimens should be sent by FedEx to the laboratory on the same day they are collected."

"To have this sort of technicality of all technicalities let a player off ... it's just a sad day for all the clean players and those that abide by the rules within professional baseball," Tygart said.

Das, who has been baseball's independent arbitrator since 2000, informed the sides of his decision,

but did not give them a written opinion. He has 30 days to do so.

"Today the arbitration panel announced its decision, by a 2-1 vote, to sustain Ryan Braun's grievance challenging his 50-game suspension by the commissioner's office," a statement from the players' association said.

Manfred and union head Michael Weiner are part of the arbitration panel, and management and the union almost always split their votes, leaving Das, the independent panel member, to make the decision.

"MLB and cable sports tried to sully the reputation of an innocent man," Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers said on Twitter. "Picked the wrong guy to mess with. Truth will set u free"

Brewers owner Mark Attanasio was pleased his best player was vindicated.

Brewers owner Mark Attanasio was pleased his best player was vindicated.

"Since joining our organization in 2005, Ryan Braun has been a model citizen and a person of character and integrity. Knowing Ryan as I do, I always believed he would succeed in his appeal," Attanasio said in a statement. "It is unfortunate that the confidentiality of the program was compromised, and we thank our fans and everyone who supported Ryan and did not rush to judgment."

Brewers closer John Axford added on Twitter: "All I can say is that Braun has exemplary character and is continuing to handle this in an unbelievable manner."

An evidentiary hearing on Braun's appeal was held Jan. 19-20 in New York, ending the day

before the player accepted the NL MVP award at a black-tie dinner.

"We provided complete cooperation throughout, despite the highly unusual circumstances. I have been an open book, willing to share details from every aspect of my life as part of this investigation, because I have nothing to hide," Braun said in his statement. "I have passed over 25 drug tests in my career, including at least three in the past year."

A person familiar with the situation told The Associated Press that, after being informed of the positive result, Braun asked to have another urine test taken, and that the second test was within normal range.

Positive tests for performance-enhancing drugs have been relatively rare under the major

league testing program, with just two others in 2011: Tampa Bay outfielder Manny Ramirez and Colorado Rockies catcher Eliezer Alfonzo. Ramirez at first retired rather than face a 100-game suspension for a second positive test. Now that he wants to play again and since he missed most of last year, he will only need to serve a 50-game penalty.

"It has always been Major League Baseball's position that no matter who tests positive, we will exhaust all avenues in pursuit of the appropriate discipline. We have been true to that position in every instance, because baseball fans deserve nothing less," Manfred said. "As a part of our drug testing program, the commissioner's office and the players' association agreed to a neutral third-party review for instances that are under dispute. While we have always respected that process, Major League Baseball vehemently disagrees with the decision rendered today by arbitrator Shyam Das."

Braun hit .332 with 33 homers and 111 RBIs last year and led Milwaukee to the NL championship series, where the Brewers lost to the eventual World Series champion St. Louis Cardinals. The Brewers are counting on his offense following the departure of Prince Fielder, who became a free agent and signed with the Detroit Tigers.

"I just did a few shirtless cartwheels to show my excitement," Brewers teammate Corey Hart said in a text message.

Braun already was signed through 2015, but the Brewers gave him a new deal running through 2020 that added \$105 million and guaranteed him a total of \$145.5 million over a decade.

MARANA, Ariz. (AP)—The

roar resonated across Dove Mountain from fans packed around the 18th green as Tiger Woods, needing a birdie on the last hole to stay in his match, hit a shot that dropped out of the Arizona sky and landed 5 feet from the hole.

That was followed by silence.

Woods missed the putt so badly that it never even touched the hole.

No one was more surprised than Nick Watney, who removed his cap to shake hands with Woods after a 1-up victory Thursday in the Match Play Championship. It was the third straight time in this fickle event that Woods failed to get out of the second round, and it raised more questions about his ability to make key putts that once seemed so automatic.

"I was fighting the blocks all day with my putter," said Woods, who missed three putts inside 10 feet on the last six holes. "Left-to-right putt, I took it slightly shut right there, and I knew it - and blocked it open."

Watney was so sure that Woods would square the match

Tiger Woods eliminated by Nick Watney

that he already had his yardage book out, checking the hole location on the first green (the 19th hole of their match), trying to decide if 3-wood was the right club off the tee.

"The old adage is to expect your opponent to make it," Watney said. "And when it's Tiger Woods, you really expect him to make it."

Just not this Tiger Woods.

"I didn't miss a single shot coming in, which is good. And that was fun, to hit the ball that well," Woods said. "Unfortunately, I just didn't make a putt when I needed it."

Two weeks ago, Woods couldn't buy a putt at Pebble Beach and closed with a 75, which was 11 shots worse than playing partner and eventual winner Phil Mickelson. He also struggled to make putts in Abu Dhabi, when he failed to win despite being tied for the 54-hole lead with Robert Rock.

And now the Match Play Championship, where he lost his only lead by missing a 5-foot par putt on the seventh

hole, and made only one putt longer than 5 feet all day.

"I'm very happy to move on. I feel a bit fortunate, as well," Watney said. "We don't see him miss putts like that very often. And there were a few of them."

Watney next plays Lee Westwood, the former world No. 1 whom Watney has beaten at Dove Mountain each of the last two years. Westwood had no trouble against Robert Karlsson of Sweden, advancing to the third round for the first time in 12 tries at this fickle event.

"Need more clothes. Didn't pack for long enough!" Westwood jokingly tweeted.

England has won this World Golf Championship the last two years—Luke Donald and Ian Poulter—and Westwood is its last hope to make it three in a row.

The surprise was that Scotland had two players remaining—former British Open champion Paul Lawrie took

down Ryo Ishikawa, and Martin Laird defeated Matteo Manassero. Lawrie and Laird face each other in the third round.

In other matches Thursday:

■ U.S. Open champion Rory McIlroy, the No. 2 seed, made

only three birdies but won two straight holes with par to put away Anders Hansen and advance to the third round. He plays Miguel Angel Jimenez, the 48-year-old Spaniard who beat PGA champion Keegan Bradley.

■ Dustin Johnson, headed for defeat in the opening round until outlasting Jim Furyk in 20 holes, blasted Francesco Molinari early and rolled to a 7-and-5 win. "I was definitely in a better mood," Johnson said of the short day.

Johnson has played two medium-length players in Furyk and Molinari. Next up is another pea shooter, Mark Wilson, who breezed to a win over Robert Rock of England.

■ Steve Stricker celebrated his 45th birthday in style. Two

down on the back nine, he rallied to catch Louis Oosthuizen, then won the match with a 20-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole that had so much break even Stricker wasn't sure he could make it.

He will play Hunter Mahan, who never trailed in beating Y.E. Yang.

■ Ernie Els, one day after becoming only the third No. 64 seed to win, had another short day that precedes a long flight home. He lost, 5 and 4, to Peter Hanson of Sweden.

Seven Americans, seven Europeans, an Asian and an Australian (John Senden) represent the 16 players left.

Watney fully expected to be among them.

He was among the few players who admitted peeking at the brackets, and he knew he had a chance to play Woods in the second round. Even as Woods was struggling to get through the opening round, Watney said he wanted to play him because of his stature as the dominant player of this era with 14 major championships.

"I really like Gonzo," he said of Gonzalo Fernandez-Castano, whom Woods beat in 18 holes in the first round. "But I wanted to play Tiger. This is why we play. I could beat him in the second round at Riviera, but then we have two more rounds. To go head-to-head and wind up on top, this is something I'll remember."

Woods took his only lead when Watney three-putted for bogey on the fourth hole, and Watney squared the match at No. 7 when Woods missed a 5-foot par putt, a sign of things to come.

The back nine again gave Woods fits. He hit into a bunker and into the desert, having to play a left-handed shot for the second straight day, conceding the 10th hole with a double bogey. Watney went 2 up with an 18-foot birdie on the 12th.

Then, it was a matter of hanging on.

"I just felt like Tiger Woods is not going to lay down," Watney said. "Tiger Woods is not going to give you this match, so you've got to do something to take it. And that was big. Obviously, that ended up being the cushion of the match."

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	20	14	.588	—
New York	17	18	.486	3 1/2
Boston	15	17	.469	4
Toronto	10	23	.303	9 1/2
New Jersey	10	25	.286	10 1/2

Southeast Division

Miami	27	7	.794	—
Orlando	22	13	.629	5 1/2
Atlanta	20	14	.588	7
Washington	7	26	.212	19 1/2
Charlotte	4	28	.125	22

Central Division

Chicago	27	8	.771	—
Indiana	21	12	.636	5
Cleveland	13	18	.419	12
Milwaukee	12	20	.394	13
Detroit	11	24	.314	16

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	24	10	.706	—
Dallas	21	13	.618	3
Houston	20	14	.588	4
Memphis	19	15	.559	5
New Orleans	8	25	.242	15 1/2

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	27	7	.794	—
Portland	18	16	.529	9
Denver	18	17	.514	9 1/2
Minnesota	17	17	.500	10
Utah	15	17	.469	11

Pacific Division

L.A. Clippers	20	11	.645	—
L.A. Lakers	20	14	.588	1 1/2
Golden State	13	17	.433	6 1/2
Phoenix	14	20	.412	7 1/2
Sacramento	11	22	.333	10

Yesterday's Games

Miami 102, New York 88
Atlanta 83, Orlando 78
San Antonio 114, Denver 99
Oklahoma City 100, L.A. Lakers 85

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

10 PROS

From Page 28

year pro Kentaro Asahi and his partner six-year pro Katsuhiro Shiratori.

Japan also fields returning women's champs Mengumi Murikami and Hiroyo Kaneda and the pro duo of Hiroko Matsuyama and Sama Miyagawa.

Many in the group are familiar with the traditional sand event and enjoy participating to get in some good training in preparation for their 2012 season that starts in less than two months.

Also featured this weekend is Olympic hopeful Kirk Pittman

Saipan to host district tourney

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 2012 CNMI District Little League Baseball Tournament will be hosted on Saipan this coming June with all four divisions playing at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios and Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Ballfields.

"I want to wish all of the players in all districts a successful 2012 campaign. I also want to salute all of the managers,

coaches, umpires, and volunteers for donating their time and effort to support the largest youth program in the world. I also want to give a big shout out to all of the sponsors for helping provide much needed financial assistance in light of an ailing economy" said CNMI district administrator James Ada.

After completion of the SLLBI regular season, Saipan will compete against rival all-star squads from Tinian and Rota.

This year marks the 16th consecutive episode of the event

halftime as MHS glided to an 86-36 gap heading into the final period. Dela Rosa and John Darag tallied six points apiece in the third quarter. Cabaltica also scrambled for six points for the overly outmatched Knights.

Both teams essentially traded baskets in the fourth quarter as the Dolphins cruised to the easy win.

In the game, MCS' defense allowed over 30 points in three of the four quarters.

MHS' Caro led four teammates in double digits with 26,

It was pretty well over by

LADY

From Page 28

day and Saturday. Both SIS1 and MHS1 finished with 10-2 slates.

Tinian High School is expected to appear in the tournament and will be issued an automatic No. 4 seeding on the bracket.

The rest of the standings in-

clude SIS2 (5-7) in the fifth chair, Kagman High School's Lady Ayuyus (4-8) in sixth, and MHS2 seventh (2-10). The opening rounds of the tournament begin

work during his off-season.

Loomis comes all the way here from Laguna Beach, California where he plays on four different beach volleyball tours. After playing volleyball for the University of California, Irvine Loomis is now entering his fifth year as a pro.

He still plays on the diminished AVP Tour and also competes on the Corona Light Tour, Jose Cuervo Tour, and in the National Volleyball League.

Loomis finished in fifth place last year and said he had plans of coming back again because he had such a great time.

During their visit the pros have been introduced to the

50/50 split and he said 'Oh, well. I will give you what you want.' Then he mentioned the pay-per-view."

Other opponents

For now, Pacquiao and the unbeaten Mayweather have lined up other opponents with speculation that the mega fight could happen later in the year if it comes off at all.

Pacquiao is scheduled to face American Timothy Bradley on June 9 at the MGM Grand Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas for Pacman's World Boxing Organization welterweight belt.

Mayweather is set to fight Puerto Rico's Miguel Cotto on May 5 for the latter's World Boxing Association super welterweight title at the same venue.

Pacquiao's trainer Freddie Roach said he was not taking Bradley lightly, but added it was hard not to get excited about a possible upcoming mega fight against Mayweather.

"If both (Pacquiao and Mayweather) come off with good wins it will be a step in the right

direction," Roach said on Tuesday. "That is the match everyone in the world wants to see."

Bradley was one of several fighters in the mix seen as a possible Pacquiao opponent after talks with Mayweather fell through.

Bradley boasts a record of 28-0 with 12 knockouts. Pacquiao, 54-3-2 with 38 knockouts, hasn't lost since March 2005 and is considered the best pound-for-pound boxer on the planet.

But Pacquiao was less than dominant as he struggled to a majority points decision over Mexico's Juan Manuel Marquez in November last year.

Promo tour

Bradley and Pacquiao kicked off their promotional tour on Tuesday at The Beverly Hills Hotel. They smiled as they posed for photos together and Pacquiao then lightheartedly borrowed a camera and took pictures of Bradley in his boxing pose.

Joking aside, Roach said he expected Pacquiao to knock Bradley out.

Taipei; the Junior division ASPAC will be hosted for the first-time ever in Hanoi, Vietnam; and the Senior and Big divisions will both be held in Guam.

Notably, the Senior League and Big League ASPACs were originally supposed to be hosted near Clark Air Force Base in Angeles City, Philippines. However, due to the Philippines President Benigno Aquino appointing Little League Philippines district administrator Jolly Gomez to the Philippines Sports Commission, the events were handed over to organizers in Guam.

Gomez and his fellow PSC members will be tending to

organizational duties in preparation for the 2012 Summer Olympics, which will be held this year in London, England.

An ASPAC win earns the privilege of representing the Asia-Pacific region in the coveted Little League World Series tournaments held in the U.S. mainland.

Notably, two CNMI umpires were recently approved to represent the CNMI in the Little League World Series in August. One will appear in the Big League Series in Easley, South Carolina and the other will suit up for the Junior League Series showcased in Taylor, Michigan.

Francisco 5, Moran 4, Lee 1.

MCS 61 – Cabaltica 25, Montes 12, Saludez 5, Gagaring 5, Kautz 4, Taguchi 4, Salas 3, Pamintuan 2, Igital 1.

Scoring by quarters: 31-17, 64-24, 86-36, 117-61.

JUNIOR VARSITY

MHS 38 – Javier 20, Feria 6, Kintaro 4, Acopiado 2, Camacho 2, Palacios 2, Park 2.

SIS 15 – Cepeda 9, Liu 3, J Kim 2, Yoon 1.

Scoring by quarters: 10-0, 12-7, 26-8, 38-15.

at noon on Friday and will run hourly until 4pm. Then the series concludes on Saturday from 9am leading up to the finals at 11pm and noon, if necessary.

The clinic ended with the pros joining in on some five-on-five pickup games.

They were featured in last night's traditional exhibition match to kick off the weekend event, after which they will be raffled off and be paired with some lucky amateur players.

Organizers are hoping to field over 50 teams.

Pool play for the Marianas Cup main event starts today at 8am. The Top 16 teams in the men's and women's divisions will advance to Sunday's 8am double-elimination playoffs. Then the awards banquet will be held at the Fiesta Resort & Spa garden at 6pm; all games will be

played on Fiesta Resort & Spa's sand courts. FIVB, the Marianas Visitor Authority, Delta Airlines, Fiesta Resort & Spa, and NMIVA organize the pro-am tournament and festivities. Cash and other prizes will be awarded to the top place finishers; other various raffle prizes will also be up for grabs.

The tourney is formatted to feature a professional player teamed up with an amateur partner to compete in a double-elimination setting. Teams will be determined in a raffle format. The Marianas Cup Beach Volleyball Festival is Micronesia's longest-running beach volleyball event.

Bradley, of Palm Springs, California, is coming off an eight-round knockout victory over former world champion Joel Casamayor.

The 28-year-old Bradley said he planned to take the fight to the 33-year-old Pacquiao.

Activity Schedule for February 25, 2012

2012 Tan Holdings Doubles Badminton Tournament

will kick off at 5:00 PM

2012 Tan Holdings Intercompany Basketball League

3:00 PM: Fiesta Resort & Spa vs. JP Center-TSL Plaza

5:00 PM: D&Q-CTSI vs. POI-RMS

7:00 PM: Saipan Grand Hotel vs. Shirley's Coffee Shop





**Heat contain Lin,
roll to 8th straight
win, 102-88**

Page 25

Saipan Tribune Sports

28 SATURDAY - SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25-26, 2012

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Dolphins throttle Knights in boys caging

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Marianas High School Dolphins barreled past the Mount Carmel School Knights, 117-61, in Wednesday's Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization varsity boys basketball matchup at the MHS Gymnasium.

MHS improved its win-loss record to 5-1, while winless MCS was left scratching their heads for an eighth time.

It was all MHS on Wednesday as its Junior Dolphins also swam circles around the Saipan International School Geckos with a big second half push in the junior varsity pairing.

In the varsity game, defensive woes continued to haunt the Knights as the Dolphins jumped out to a 31-17 lead in the opening 10 minutes.

MHS connected with a pair of 3-pointers to go with 10 points from Ezra Caro.

Then it went from bad to worse for MCS in the second quarter as its offense was stuffed to just seven points, while MHS exploded to a disheartening 64-24 halftime lead.

**See DOLPHINS
on Page 27**



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Marianas High School's Erick Dela Rosa makes a strong move under the basket in Wednesday's MISO boys varsity basketball match against Mount Carmel School at the MHS Gymnasium.

10 pros featured in Marianas Cup Pro-Am

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER


The 20th Annual Marianas Cup Pro-Am volleyball tournament will showcase 10 professional beach volleyball professionals from Japan, New Zealand, and the U.S. beachside today at Fiesta Resort & Spa.

Eight of the experts represent Japanese Beach Volleyball, including reigning men's champions Daisuke Matsumoto and Jenki Hatabe along with returning 6'6" 10-

See 10 PROS on Page 27



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Japanese pro Mengumi Murikami and Hiroyo Kaneda, center, explain the next drill during a beach volleyball clinic they and six other visiting pros conducted for high school students Thursday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa's sand courts.

**Braun's 50-game
suspension
overturned**

Page 26



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

A crafty spike by Grace Christian Academy's Michi Tenorio makes it past two Marianas High School blockers in Thursday's MISO girls volleyball match held at the MHS Gymnasium.

Lady Eagles finish 1st place in girls volleyball

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Grace Christian Academy Lady Eagles soared to a regular season first place finish following a critical victory over the Marianas High School Lady Dolphins (MHS1) as the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization girls volleyball regular season concluded Thursday at the MHS Gymnasium.

MHS1 came out swinging and wrestled out the opening set, 25-22, but GCA kept its composure and pulled out the second set, 25-19, and held strong in the deciding set, 15-8.

Coincidentally, SIS1 was wrapping up its season at the same time on the other court against its sister squad, SIS2. SIS1 handled the junior Lady Geckos in all three sets, 25-10, 25-20, and 15-1.

SIS1 was humbled this year with a second place seeding just in front of third-ranked MHS1 heading into the double-elimination postseason tournament, scheduled for this coming Friday.

See LADY on Page 27



AP

Trainer Freddie Roach, left, Manny Pacquiao, Tim Bradley Jr., second from right, and trainer Joel Diaz, right, pose for photographs during a news conference, Thursday, Feb. 23, 2012, in New York, to promote an upcoming fight. Pacquiao and Bradley will fight on Saturday, June, 9, 2012 in Las Vegas, for Pacquiao's WBO welterweight championship.

Pacquiao 'embarrassed' by Mayweather offer


LOS ANGELES—Manny Pacquiao said the pieces were falling into place for a world title fight with Floyd Mayweather Jr. until the American boxer tried to low-ball him on the split of the pay-per-view revenue.

The Filipino boxer said he called Mayweather personally to try to broker a deal for a world championship fight and

See PACQUIAO on Page 27